

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
TATA AIG	450.02	371.40	83.62	88.97	514.88	526.21
United India Insurance	2,012.28	1,086.90	264.61	113.64	1,490.07	651.46
Universal Sompo General Insurance	590.48	1,317.53	125.38	156.46	677.43	228.53
GRAND TOTAL	22,345.51	19,767.46	4,216.05	3,038.70	16,139.58	16,772.42

Unrest among farmers

1294. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central and most of the State Governments have failed to pay adequate attention to pricing, procurement and public distribution to address the problems being faced by farmers of the country thereby creating unrest among farming community;

(b) if so, the measures that have been taken in the last one year to remove the increasing unrest among farmers; and

(c) the steps being taken for making farming economically viable and attractive by giving adequate Minimum Support Price (MSP)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) From time to time, some farmers and farmers' organizations have been agitating, articulating certain grievances and making certain demands like increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for agricultural crops and other agricultural policies, which is taken due note of by Government. The price of agricultural produce is dependent on host of factors at any given point of time like demand and supply of the produce, international prices, climatic conditions, nature of the produce and availability of transport etc.

As per the existing arrangements, procurement is made of the crops for which MSPs are announced through Central and State agencies. In so far as cereals/nutri cereals are concerned, they are procured through Food Corporation of India (FCI) and decentralized procurement system mainly for distribution under the public distribution system (PDS), for welfare schemes and buffer stocking for food security. Government implements Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of oilseeds, pulses and cotton through Central Nodal Agencies at MSP declared by the Government. The basic objectives of PSS are to provide remunerative prices to the growers for their

produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production and to safeguard the interest of the consumers by making available supplies at reasonable price with low cost of intermediation.

The recently launched Umbrella Scheme “Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanraks Han Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)” provides for a holistic arrangement for assurance of a remunerative and stable price environment for growers/farmers to increase agriculture production and productivity. This Umbrella Scheme comprises Price Support Scheme (PSS) for pulses and oilseeds, Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) and Pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPSS) for oilseeds to ensure MSP to the farmers.

Government is committed to farmer’s welfare and towards this objective it has changed its strategy from being production centric to an income centric one. At present, the Government is implementing various schemes and recalibrating them based on the suggested intervention to synchronise with higher gains for the farmers which include Soil Health Cards (SHC), production and availability of quality seeds, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) and promotion of allied activities like dairying, poultry, beekeeping and fisheries.

Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced its intent to develop and upgrade existing 22,000 rural haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs). Toward this end an Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund with a corpus of Rs 2000 crore has been proposed. These GrAMs, electronically linked to e-NAM and exempted from regulations of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMCs), will provide farmers facility to make direct sale to consumers and bulk purchasers.

The Government is promoting group farming amongst the farmers. Small and marginal farmers are mobilized to form Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)/Farmer Interest Group (FIG) for aggregation and economies of scale. FPOs are eligible for financial assistance under MIDH, NFSM etc. Further, Small Farmers’ Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) has registered 706 Farmers Producers Companies in various States.

(c) The MSP policy whereby the farmers are assured of a minimum of 50 per cent as margin of profit is another progressive step forward in a series of reforms that the Government has been rolling out for the last 4 years, committed as it is to doubling farmers’ income by 2022 and improving the welfare substantively. Giving a major boost for the farmers’ income, Government has increased MSPs substantially

for all mandated crops for the season 2018-19. This decision of the Government was a historic one as it fulfills the commitment to the farmers to provide 50 per cent return over cost of production for the first time for all mandated crops.

Availability of milk in the country

1295. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of milch cattle in the country and the quantity of milk these cattle produce daily;

(b) the quantity of milk available in the market;

(c) whether the quantity of milk available in the market is much higher than the ideal milk production capacity of the milch cattle in the country, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether this excess milk is contaminated milk, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) As per 19th Livestock Census 2012 the number of milch cattle in the country is 67.5 million. The estimated total milk production in the country is 176.3 million tonnes for the year 2017-18.

(b) and (c) The daily average quantity of milk marketed by the Dairy Cooperatives during the year 2017-18 is 349.57 Lakh Litres Per Day (LLPD).

(d) Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 provides an effective machinery for enforcement of provisions of the Act. To check the problem of adulteration and sub-standard food products, including milk, regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products is undertaken by officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to ensure that food business operators comply with the standards laid down under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the rules and regulations made thereunder. In cases where the food samples are found to be non-conforming to prescribed standards, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter IX of the FSS ACT, 2006. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) also pursues the matter with the State/UT for effective implementation of the ACT and the rules and regulations thereunder. Further, the interim report of National Milk Safety and Quality Survey, 2018 initiated by FSSAI broadly suggests that milk in India is largely safe for consumption.