

cotton, soybean, mustard, castor, groundnut, black gram, red gram, green gram, chilly, chickpea, potato, ginger, sugarcane, turmeric, moringa, oil palm etc. have been identified for the tobacco growing areas in different States. The most preferred diversified suitable crops adopted for farming reported by the States are as under:—

Sl. No	State	Diversified preferred crops adopted for farming
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Bengal gram, Black gram, Green gram, Jowar, Maize, Oilseeds crops and Hybrid Vegetables.
2.	Bihar	Vegetables like Carrot, Raddish, Cauliflower/Cabbage, Okra, Tomato, Chili, Brinjal, Pumpkin/Sponge Gourd/Bitter Gourd/Cucumber/Ridge Gourd, Pea and Onion.
3.	Gujarat	Wheat, Pulses, Nutri Cereals (Jowar, Bajra), Paddy and Cotton.
4.	Karnataka	Cereals/Milletts, Pulses, Sugarcane, Oilseeds, Horticultural crops (Mango, Banana, Papaya) Flowers, Plantation crop and Vegetables.
5.	Odisha	Hybrid Maize, Milletts, Vegetables, Oil seeds (Groundnut and Mustard), Cropping system like Vegetable-Maize/Milletts, Vegetables-Groundnut/Mustard, Vegetables-Urd/Bengal gram, Vegetables-Vegetables.
6.	Tamil Nadu	Hybrid Maize, Chilli, Brinjal and Tomato.
7.	Telangana	Rainfed Black soils: Soybean + Pigeon pea and Cotton + Pigeon pea, Rainfed Red soils: Groundnut under irrigation, Alluvial soils inundated up to September: Chickpea and Chillies.
8.	Uttar Pradesh	Lentil, Gram, Mustard and Wheat.
9.	West Bengal	Mustard, Winter Vegetables, Potato, Wheat and Hybrid Maize.

Implementation of new MSP scheme

†1791. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any agency or a committee to ensure that the farmers could get Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their crops as fixed by the Government, for their welfare;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard and by when it is aimed to give MSP worth one and half times of the cost of the crop production of the farmers by Government; and

(c) the extent of financial burden which is likely to increase after the implementation of the new MSP Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) As per the extant institutional mechanism, Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) of 22 mandated agricultural crops and Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane on the basis of recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/ Departments concerned and other relevant factors. CACP is an expert body tasked to recommend MSPs after a broad consultative process taking into consideration a host of factors.

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.

An Umbrella Scheme Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanraks Han Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) launched in September, 2018 provides for a holistic arrangement for assurance of a remunerative and stable price environment for growers/farmers to increase agriculture productivity and production. 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.

(b) During Rabi season 2017-18, only Safflower had less than 50 per cent return over cost of production. However, out of 14 kharif crops, 11 crops had return lower than 50 per cent over its cost of production in 2017-18. The Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced the pre-determined principle to keep MSP at levels of one and half times the cost of production. Accordingly, Government has increased the MSPs for all notified Kharif, Rabi and other commercial crops with a return of atleast 50 per cent of cost of production for the agricultural year 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. Under PM-AASHA procurement of kharif crops of 2018-19 has begun and is proceeding apace.

(c) During kharif season, paddy/rice is the main crop which is procured for distribution under PDS. The difference between the economic cost of the cereals procured and their central issue prices under PDS is the subsidy outgo which is borne on the Budget. The additional financial implication on account of higher MSP for paddy for 2018-19 is estimated to be ₹ 12167 crore as estimated by Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD).

Besides, Government procures pulses, oilseeds and cotton under the Price Support Scheme. Apart from this Jute Corporation of India and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) procure jute and copra, respectively based on assessed requirements. Government provides guarantee based on which the procurement agencies conduct their operations and the losses incurred by them in the process is borne on the Budget.

**Relief package for the drought affected farmers of
Marathwada in Maharashtra**

1792. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scanty rainfall during the last two years has made the life of farmers miserable in Marathwada region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the special relief package Government has given to the farmers of the region during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (c) No Such information is available. Besides, during the last two years, the Government of Maharashtra had neither declared drought in the State nor submitted any Memorandum in this regard. However, during current year Government of Maharashtra has submitted Memorandum seeking financial assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in the wake of Drought Kharif 2018. In response, Government of India has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Central Team to assess the drought situation in the State, which has visited the State from 4th to 7th December, 2018. As per existing procedure, the report of IMCT is placed before the Sub-Committee of National