

decided price on a future date, futures are standardized, exchange traded contracts for buying/selling a standardized quantity of a particular commodity at a pre-decided price on a future date.

Farmers and growers can benefit through the price signals emanating from futures markets even if they may not directly participate in the futures market. A farmer can determine the kind of crop which he would prefer to sow by taking advantage of the advance information of the future price trends of alternate crops. Farmers can also simultaneously enter into the futures contract of the planted crop at the prevailing futures price thereby locking-in the price at which they can sell the underlying commodity at a specific point of time in future. In a futures contract, the farmer can deliver the crop directly on the exchange platform, subject to payment of market levies charged by the respective States.

As per the Fifteenth Report on “The Forward Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2010” of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, future markets also lead to reduction in the amplitude of seasonal price variations and help the farmer realize somewhat better price at the time of harvest or to postpone the sale of his produce, in part or in full, thereby moderating market arrivals as well as the ability of the trader to monopolise price setting.

**Financial support to States for implementing schemes for farmers**

608. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many State Governments have come out with various schemes to protect farmers from price volatility;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government proposes to support farmers under the existing schemes with remunerative prices for agricultural and horticulture produce;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the produce which are not covered under MSP are likely to be covered under Price Support Schemes (PSS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS); and

(f) if so, the details thereof and financial support provided to States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) To protect farmers from distress sale, Central Government already supports farmers producing agriculture and horticulture commodities in consultation with State Governments/Union Territories. The objective of support is to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce and do not have to resort to distress sale.

(e) and (f) Notified oilseeds and pulses are covered under Price Support Scheme (PSS) and other perishable agricultural/horticultural produce for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) is not announced are covered under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). Financial support is not provided to States. Instead, losses, if any, incurred by procuring agencies in undertaking PSS/MIS operations are reimbursed by the Central Government.

#### **Implementation of National Project on soil health and fertility**

609. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the National Soil Health Card Scheme along with the number of data collection rounds conducted per year;

(b) the details of budget allocated and actual amount spent since the inception of the scheme, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for revising the budget to half of the original amount allocated for the National Project on soil health and fertility; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to simultaneously build real-time online portals that can help farmers to gain quicker access to soil health data, if so, the details thereof, including a time-line for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) 'Soil Health Card' (SHC) scheme has been launched in February 2015 to assist State Governments to evaluate fertility in all farm holdings and issue soil health cards to farmers regularly in a cycle of 2 years. Soil health cards provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. Soil samples are collected after harvesting of the crops.

(b) Year-wise fund allocated and released under Soil Health Card Scheme is given below:—