

**Institution to regulate prices of agriculture and non-agriculture products**

130. SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to set-up an institution to regulate the prices of agricultural and non-agricultural products in rural areas to ensure the minimum guaranteed fair price for such products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to set-up an institution to regulate the prices of agricultural and non-agricultural products. The prices of agricultural produce are determined by supply and demand conditions in the market on a day-to-day basis. Price of agricultural produce tends to fall after the harvesting season due to increase in market arrival of new crop in a lumpy manner.

Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of 22 mandated agricultural crops and Fair and Remunerative Prices (FRP) for sugarcane based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP).

As announced in the Union Budget 2018-19, the Government has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Kharif and Rabi Crops and other commercial crops for the season 2018-19 with a return of at least 50 percent over cost of production. Government offers to procure mandated agricultural produce at MSP as well as supports farmers price received in the Mandies through Price Deficiency Payment Scheme. Government is also implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) on the request of the State/UT Government for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities, generally perishable in nature, and not covered under the price support scheme for MSP.

**Buffer stock of onion**

131. SHRI A. VIKAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to increase buffer stock of onion/ potatoes in the country;