

Government of India is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support System.

Government of India has circulated a new model "The Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017" to States/Union Territories (UTs) for its adoption. The Model APLM Act, 2017 provides alternate marketing channels such as setting up of private markets, direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, special commodity markets, declaring warehouses/silos/cold storages or such structures as market sub-yards to facilitate farmers in marketing their produce at competitive and remunerative prices. Model APLM Act, 2017 has recommended deregulation of marketing of fruits & vegetables outside the market yards.

Besides, Government is implementing National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) scheme wherein online trading of agriculture and horticulture commodities is done for transparent price discovery for farmers for their produce through competitive online bidding system. Already trading parameters for 150 agricultural commodities including 29 vegetables have been facilitated.

(b) Consultation with stakeholders and States by the Government is a continuous process such as through organizing various seminars, conferences and workshops etc.

#### **Agriculture policy in the country**

†649. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural policy in the country, if any, and if no such policy is in place, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether farmers are not able to get fair price for their produce for want of agricultural policy in the country;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by Government to protect farmers' produce in the market from going into the hands of middlemen?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) Based on the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers',

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

submitted by the Swaminathan Commission, which contained major recommendations of the Commission, the Government approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007, which aims to improve economic viability of farming and increase net income of farmers. The Policy provisions in NPF-2007 include, *inter alia*, (i) asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; (ii) supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, (iii) issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers and integrated pest management system; (iv) region and crop specific implements and machinery; (v) support services for women; (vi) timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance instruments; (vii) support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; (viii) agricultural bio-security system; (ix) use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and setting up of farm schools to revitalize agricultural extension; (x) coverage of farmers under a comprehensive national social security scheme; (xi) effective implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) across the country and establishing community foodgrain banks; (xii) development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture; (xiii) curriculum reforms in agricultural universities; (xiv) special categories of farming like organic farming and contract farming; (xv) rural non-farm employment initiative for farm households; and (xvi) integrated approach for rural energy, etc.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), which was constituted for preparation of Plan of Action, identified 201 Action Points from NPF, 2007, where necessary action had to be taken. Out of 201 number of action points identified, 200 numbers have already been implemented as of date.

(b) to (d) To ensure that farmers get appropriate price for their produce, the Government of India increased the MSP of 14 Kharif crops by 1.5 times. In the Years 2009-14 only 7.24 lakh MT of pulses and oil seeds were procured whereas in the period from 2014-19, 91.47 LMT were procured under Price Support Scheme. Further, in order to ensure remunerative prices to farmers, the following Marketing Reforms are being implemented:-

- (i) **Model APML Act:** The Government is advocating marketing reforms to provide farmers alternative channels to sell their produce. With the objective of ensuring better prices to farmers by promoting transparency, barrier free agriculture market as well as multiple alternative competitive marketing channels, the Government has released Model Act "The Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017" for its adoption by States/UT.

- (ii) Grams: As per Union Budget Announcement, 2018-19, the Government has announced to develop and upgrade existing 22,000 Gramin Haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) to work as centres of aggregation and for direct purchase of agricultural commodities from the farmers.
- (iii) Export policy: For the first time, an Agriculture Export Policy has been announced by the Government.
- (iv) Contract Farming: The Government has formulated and released a progressive and facilitative Model Act "The Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2018" in May, 2018 for its adoption by the states/Union Territories (UTs). The aforesaid Model Contract Farming Act covers the entire value and supply chain from pre-production to post harvest marketing including services contract for the agricultural produce and livestock.
- (v) e-NAM: 585 eNAMs have been created. This is a very important step for agricultural marketing. More than 1.65 crore farmers are already registered in the portal,
- (vi) FPOs: In the Budget 2019-20 emphasis has been laid on formation of 10000 FPOs.

#### **Implementation of recommendations of National Commission on Farmers**

†650. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the main recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers;
- (b) the present status of their implementation;
- (c) whether problems of farmers still persist despite follow-up action by various stakeholders on the recommendations of the Commission;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the comprehensive steps taken by Government to resolve problems being faced by the farmers?

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