

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Strengthening of infrastructure of currently functional fertilizer rake points in the country is a need based ongoing process subject to commercial justification, operational requirement, technical feasibility and resource availability. 60 works of rake point improvement have been sanctioned at a cost of ₹1975 crore. Out of these 60 works, 31 works have been completed and others are in various stages of execution.

(b) and (c) Out of the three rake points mentioned, Bargawan is already open for fertilizer handling. Singrauli is only open for handling of Coal and is 19 Kilometers from Bargawan. Sidhi is presently not connected with rail. New Rail line from Rewa-Sidhi-Singrauli is a sanctioned work and in different stages of execution.

**Action taken on rise in prices of
farming varieties**

*75. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of farming varieties, especially vegetables, has risen more than 100 per cent in December, 2019 in comparison to the price in March, 2019;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in comparison to year-to-year, during last six years period, the agricultural product prices have soared over 300 per cent;

(c) whether Government has decided to stop export of vegetables and farming varieties to check the price hike; and

(d) if so, the action taken so far and the reaction in the market thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) No Sir, the all-India average wholesale prices of most of the vegetables covered in Wholesale Price Index (WPI) have not increased more than 100 per cent except in case of Potato, Onion, Carrot and Drumstick in December, 2019 as compared to March, 2019.

(b) No Sir, during last six years period (year-on-year), the agricultural product prices Wholesale Price Index (WPI) have not increased over 300 per cent.

(c) and (d) At Present, there is no proposal under consideration to stop export of vegetables and farming varieties. However, in view of the prevailing adverse domestic onion availability and price rise situation in India, export of all varieties of onions has been prohibited by the Government through Notification dated 29th September, 2019. The Government allowed export of Bangalore Rose Onion upto 9,000 MT through Chennai Port till 30.11.2019.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Private investment in agriculture and agro processing industry

641. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state the initiatives that are taken up by Government to foster private investment in the field of agriculture and agro processing industry?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): The Government has been promoting private investment in agriculture through Public Private Partnership through schemes in the areas of Agriculture Marketing, Soil Health Card, Micro Irrigation etc. The Government of India has also circulated a Model Act-Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017 and Model Act-Agriculture Produce & Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018, with the aim to encourage more investment in agriculture. This Ministry has also incorporated a "Framework for Supporting Public Private Partnership for Integrated Agricultural Development (PPPIAD)" under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RKVYRAFTAAR) in the scheme guidelines to facilitate integrated projects led by private sector players in the agriculture and allied sectors, with a view to aggregating farmers, providing additional income and integrating the agriculture supply chain.

To promote food processing industries and attract investment into the sector, the Government has taken various steps/measures/policy initiatives which includes permission to 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through the automatic route in manufacturing of food products and 100% FDI under Government approval route for retail trading, including through e-commerce, in respect of food products produced