

(c) Allocation of foodgrains at BPL rates have been made to the drought affected States.

Review of prices of agricultural commodities

1908. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any review of prices of agricultural commodities received by farmers during the current year;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) what measures are being adopted to relieve suffering and distress being faced by large segments of the farming community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The prices of agricultural commodities are constantly monitored.

(b) The wholesales price index (WPI) number of agricultural commodities for the week ending 18th November, 2000 shows a weekly fall of 0.9 per cent, monthly fall of 1.1 per cent while recording an annual rise of 1.4 per cent.

(c) In order to protect the interests of the farming community, the Government has taken several measures, which include fixation of Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities and procurement thereof by the designated central nodal agencies; enhancing the import tariffs of agricultural commodities, etc.

Prices of onion and garlic

1909. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the shooting prices of onion and garlic are developing fear amongst the common people for going out of their reach;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the per-heactare production of onion and garlic are too low in the country to meet the increasing demands of these commodities; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to increase the production of onion and garlic and also to meet the increasing demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The prices of garlic during the current year have remained generally at moderate levels. The Prices of onion after remaining sluggish for several months in the past have shown some increase during recent weeks.

(b) The per hectare production of onion and garlic is lower than that of several developed countries of the world. However, the average annual domestic production for last 3 years of 50 lakh tonnes of onion and that of garlic at around 5.36 lakh tonnes is sufficient to meet domestic demand.

(c) Efforts have been made by the Government for evolving new varieties and development of appropriate technology for increasing production, productivity and effective post harvest management of these crops.

Operational fishery harbours in Gujarat

1910. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of operational fishery harbours at present in Gujarat;

(b) the number and location of fishery harbours on which work is in progress in the State;

(c) whether any proposal is pending for setting up of fishery harbour;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the pending proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There are four operational fishery harbours in Gujarat, all situated in Junagadh district as detailed below:—

1. Veraval
2. Mangrol Stage-I
3. Porbundar
4. Mangrol Stage-II