

Steep fall in the prices of agricultural produce

1936. SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to steep fall in the prices of agricultural produce the farmers are in distress;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take; and

(c) whether Government are prepared to purchase their agricultural produce at the parity price and save them from the death trap of price fall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The prices of certain agricultural commodities are ruling below the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed by the Government at some places.

(b) The designated central nodal agencies have been directed to procure the quantities offered by the farmers so as to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices. The Government is also using import tariff as an instrument for controlling imports wherever necessary and encouraging exports so as to bring in balance the supply and demand for agricultural commodities.

(c) The central nodal procurement agencies procure all quantities of major agricultural commodities offered for sale provided these conform to the Fair Average Quality (FAQ) standards.

Production of cotton in Gujarat

1937. SHRI ANATRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimate of production of cotton in the current season in Gujarat;