

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2262
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/08/2022

LOSSES TO FARMERS DUE TO BAN ON EXPORT OF WHEAT

2262 PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details regarding wheat prices in the country during last five years, year-wise;
- (b) whether Government plans to compensate and aid farmers who incurred losses due to the 8 per cent fall in prices of wheat as a result of the wheat export ban;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has planned any initiatives to support the farmers during the heatwave as well as the rising inflation in the country;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken to improve wheat production during the last five years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): Government has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Kharif, Rabi and other commercial crops with a return of atleast 50 per cent over all India weighted average cost of production from the agricultural year 2018-19. Domestic prices of wheat are ruling above MSP even after wheat exports were restricted. MSP of wheat from 2017-18 to 2021-22 is given below:

Minimum Support Prices

(Rs. per Quintal)

Commodity	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
WHEAT	1735	1840	1925	1975	2015

(e) & (f) To address the adverse effect of natural risks on crops, Government ensures comprehensive risk cover for crops of farmers against all non-preventable natural risks including heat waves, pest and diseases from pre –sowing to post-harvest stage under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) which is being implemented in the country from Kharif 2016. It is a voluntary scheme for States and Farmers.

(g) The Government is implementing National Food Security Mission for wheat in 124 districts of 10 states & 2 UTs viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh with the objective of increasing wheat production through area expansion and productivity enhancement in the identified districts of the country. Under NFSM, assistance is given through state governments to farmers for interventions like cluster demonstrations on improved package of practices, demonstrations on cropping system, distribution of seeds of High Yielding Varieties (HYVs)/hybrids, improved farm machineries/resource conservation machineries, processing & post-harvest equipments, cropping system based trainings etc. The mission also provides support to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/ Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for technology back stopping and transfer of technology to the farmers under supervision of Subject Matter Specialists/Scientists with respect to wheat cultivation.

The country has a very strong wheat improvement programme, under the aegis of Indian council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) which has 30 centers in wheat growing areas across all the States/Central Agricultural Universities and ICAR institutes. Since 2014, ICAR has released 127 varieties of wheat, notified for different agro-climatic conditions of the country. Climate resilience is one of the objectives of wheat programme and very potential varieties have been developed. Moreover, at Indian Institute of Agriculture Research (IARI), New Delhi a National Phenomics Facility has been established to identify wheat lines with high temperature and drought tolerance.
