

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2881
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/12/2024

UNREMUNERATIVE PRICE OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCE

2881. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

- (a) the details of number of farmers who have left their profession due to unremunerative price of their agriculture produce during 2012-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 till date, State-wise;
- (b) whether the policies of Government have failed and farmers are compelled to sell their produce at lower rate than the cost of production;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the corrective steps Government would take in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has not conducted any survey to ascertain the number of farmers who left farming due to unremunerative price for their produce. However, National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has been conducting Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) to estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both rural and urban areas annually. As per the latest available annual report of PLFS (July, 2023 – June, 2024), the percentage distribution of workers in the usual status engaged in agriculture and allied sector at all India level for the last three years is as under:

Year	Distribution of workers in the usual status engaged in agriculture (%)
2021-22	45.5
2022-23	45.8
2023-24	46.1

Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated agricultural crops based

on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned. While recommending MSP, among other factors, CACP ensures a minimum of 50 percent as the margin over cost of production. Government undertakes procurement of the crops through the various agencies such as Food Corporation of India (FCI), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) etc., when the market prices fall below MSP. Further, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) under Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) to ensure fair prices for farmers cultivating perishable horticultural crops. The MIS is undertaken upon request from State or Union Territory governments when market prices fall by at least 10% compared to the average prices of the previous normal season, preventing farmers from having to sell their produce at a loss.

Apart from price support measures, the Government has adopted and implemented several policies, reforms, developmental programmes and schemes for improving conditions and incomes of the farmers including small farmers. These include:

- (i) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)
- (ii) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)/Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS)
- (iii) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)
- (iv) Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
- (v) Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)
- (vi) Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)
- (vii) National Bee Keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)
- (viii) Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises' (AgriSURE)
- (ix) National Mission on Natural Farming
- (x) Umbrella schemes of Krishonnati Yojana and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
- (xi) Supply of fertilizer to farmer at subsidized price so as to reduce input cost.
