

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2882
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20/12/2024

MARKET FACILITY TO POTATO AND ONION FARMERS

2882. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has any plan to provide market facility and remunerative price to potato and onion farmers who are compelled to sell potato and onion at Rs. 50 to Rs 100/- per quintal every year during the crop season;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Government implements **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)** to ensure fair prices for farmers cultivating perishable horticultural crops including onion & potato. 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. The financial losses incurred are shared 50:50 basis between the central and state governments, with a 75:25 sharing ratio applicable for northeastern states. States can procure up to 25% of their production under the MIS.

Additionally, states have the option to make differential payments directly to farmers' accounts instead of engaging in physical procurement.

Further, under MIS for TOP crops (Tomato, Onion, Potato), Government bears the transportation and storage expenses for the operations undertaken by Central Nodal Agencies like NAFED and NCCF from producing states to consuming states which will not only ensure remunerative prices to farmers but also soften the prices of TOP crops for consumers in the market.

Government of India is implementing the **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)**, a centrally Sponsored Scheme, for holistic growth of the horticulture sectors including onion & potato cultivation. As part of MIDH, financial assistance is also available at 50% of the maximum cost, which is capped at Rs. 1.75 lakh per unit, for the construction of low-cost onion/ potato storage facilities with a capacity of 25 Metric Tonnes each.

In order to provide farmers remunerative prices for their produce, the Government has taken several steps.

i. The Government has implemented National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) scheme an online virtual trading platform to provide farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) with opportunity for transparent price discovery for remunerative prices for their produce through competitive online bidding system.

ii. The Government is now implementing a central Sector scheme namely “Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)” to enhance cost effective production and higher net incomes to the member farmer producers through better liquidity and market linkages for their produce and become sustainable through collective action.
