

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:547

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON AGRICULTURAL MARKETING REFORMS

GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a National Seminar on Agricultural Marketing reforms was held recently at the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing;
- (b) if so, whether the experts have suggested to free the marketing and processing of agricultural commodities from controls to enable the farmers and the consumers to reap the benefits of liberalization;
- (c) if so, whether the experts have also suggested that States should also make uniform laws in this regard to protect the interest of farmers and avoid profiteering by intermediaries;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir.

(c): The experts suggested that for providing an efficient and competitive marketing system in the country, there was need to bring in reforms in agricultural marketing sector. The State Agricultural Produce Market (Regulation) Acts need to be amended to encourage investment in the marketing infrastructure by the private sector and to promote direct marketing and contract farming in order to facilitate farmers to receive remunerative prices for the agricultural produce.

(d) & (e): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has constituted an inter- Ministerial Task Force to examine the recommendations and suggest measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee on Strengthening and Developing of Agricultural Marketing. The above seminar was organized to solicit the views of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on the reforms measures in order to enable the Task Force to finalise its report.