

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:332
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010
POTATO CROP
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing any Centrally-sponsored programme for promotion and protection of potato crop;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a huge gap between the retail price and the production cost of potato in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the reasons therefor;and
- (e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 332 DUE FOR REPLY ON 17TH AUGUST, 2010.

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz (i) Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) and (ii) National Horticulture Mission (NHM) for the holistic development of horticulture crops including potato by adopting an area based regionally differentiated cluster approach. Under these schemes, financial assistance is available for production of potato seeds, integrated pest & nutrient management, organic farming, technology dissemination through demonstration, human resource development, mechanization, primary/mobile processing, development of infrastructure for post harvest management including cold storages and marketing. Assistance for cultivation of potatoes is also provided under the HMNEH Scheme.

(c) & (d): Retail prices depend upon a large number of factors, primarily the demand - supply position, cost of cold storage, etc. The available data relating to cost of production and retail price for major potato producing states is as follows:

S. No.	States	Retail price (Rs./Kg)	Production cost (Rs./Kg)
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(May 2010)

1. Uttar Pradesh 6.6 4.8

2. West Bengal 6.0 4.7

3. Bihar 7.1 4.9

4. Punjab 6.9 4.9

Source: Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla (HP)

(e): Government of India provides assistance under NHM and HMNEH Schemes for development of infrastructure for Post Harvest Management including establishment of cold storages and setting up of terminal markets, wholesale markets and rural primary markets/apni mandies to ensure adequate supply of fruits and vegetables to the consumers at reasonable prices and also to provide remunerative returns to the farmers. National Horticulture Board also provides assistance for setting up of cold storages.

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are not covered under Price Support Scheme and are generally perishable in nature. The purpose of implementation of MIS is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sales in the event of a bumper crop when there is glut in the market, causing prices to fall below economic levels/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared between the Central Government and the State Government concerned on 50:50.