

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:85

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2011

COVERAGE UNDER MSP

Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala ;Singh Shri Ravneet

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the crops covered at present under the Minimum Support Price (MSP);
- (b) whether the National Commission on Farmers has suggested that the MSP should be extended to cover all crops of importance in order to provide income security to small farmers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect both farmers and consumers from price fluctuations?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 85 DUE FOR REPLY ON 1ST MARCH, 2011.

(a) to (d): At present there are 25 crops covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP), namely, Paddy, Wheat, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Barley, Tur (Arhar), Moong, Urad, Gram, Lentil, Rapeseed/Mustard, Groundnut, Toria, Sunflowerseed, Soyabean, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Safflower, Copra, Tobacco, Cotton, Jute and Sugarcane.

The National Commission on Farmers (NCF) has recommended, inter-alia, that the food security basket should be widened to include crops of the dry farming areas like bajra, jowar, ragi, minor millets and pulses; that the Public Distribution System should include these nutritious cereals and pulses purchased at a reasonable MSP; and enforcing MSP throughout the country for the selected crops is essential for imparting dynamism to agriculture.

As stated above, bajra, jowar, ragi and five major pulses are already covered under MSP scheme with the objective to ensure remunerative prices to the growers. In addition, Government is implementing Marketing Intervention Scheme (MIS) for agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Price Support Scheme. The MIS is implemented on the request of State/UT Government in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the cost of production under this scheme.

The Government procures agricultural produce at MSP, through Central Government/Cooperative agencies, such as Food Corporation of India (FCI), National Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED), Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and Jute Corporation of India (JCI).

The Government is also providing foodgrains and other essential commodities at a subsidized price through Public Distribution System (PDS) to protect interests of the consumers.