

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2301
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009
AWARENESS ABOUT MSP
Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of farmers carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has revealed that about 71 per cent of farmers in the country are unaware of the concept of Minimum Support Price (MSP); and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to educate and disseminate information about various welfare programmes/schemes in operation for the benefit of the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHARAD PAWAR)

(a): According to Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in its 59th Round (January – December, 2003), of the farmers surveyed, 19 per cent not only understood the idea of Minimum Support Price but also knew the agency (if not its name, its location) to which they would sell their crop if its market price fell below the Minimum Support Price. 10 per cent of them were aware of the concept of Minimum Support Price but not of the procurement agency. The remaining 71 per cent did not know or understand the concept of Minimum Support Price.

(b): To create awareness among farmers, support is provided to the States in strengthening extension programmes through a number of schemes. The various schemes include: Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms, Mass Media Support to Agriculture, Kisan Call Centres and Establishment of Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centres by Agriculture Graduates. Under the Central Sector Scheme on Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension, agriculture related information and knowledge to the farming community is provided through 180 Narrow Casting Centres, 18 Regional Centres, 1 National Doordarshan Kendra and through 96 FM radio stations. Under the category Farm Information Dissemination, the farmers are provided relevant information on all important aspects of agriculture including marketing of their produce and Minimum Support Price etc. through Print Media, Local level Agriculture Exhibitions and development of Technology Packages in Electronic form. 583 districts level Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) have been set up in the country for technology dissemination.