

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1406
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011
MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE
Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the problems faced by the farmers including being compelled to sell their produce at a single place and not getting adequate support price for their produce;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted a committee to suggest ways and means to bring about agricultural marketing reforms;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): The Government is aware of the problems faced by farmers in selling their agricultural produce in the market. The `agriculture marketing` is a state subject. However, the Government of India is pursuing States to bring marketing reforms by amending their present Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act on the lines of Model APMC Act circulated to States/Union Territories so as to provide competitive alternative choices to farmers for sale of their produce at remunerative prices. The Government supports creation of marketing infrastructure in States/UTs under various schemes such as Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardisation, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Horticulture Mission, Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States.

The Government of India is also providing increased minimum support prices

(MSP) to agricultural commodities to ensure remunerative prices to farmers in the event of market prices falling below the MSP.

(c) to (e): The Government has constituted a Committee of State Agriculture Marketing Ministers on 2.3.2010 to promote agriculture marketing reforms. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are:-

(i) To persuade various State Governments/Administration of Union Territories

(UT) to implement the reforms in agriculture marketing through adoption of model APMC Act and model APMC Rules;

(ii) To suggest further reforms necessary to provide a barrier free national market for benefit of farmers and consumers;

(iii) To suggest measures to effectively disseminate market information and to promote grading, standardization, packaging, and quality certification of agricultural produce.

The Committee is likely to submit its first report shortly.