

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1351

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2011

MARKETING OF PERISHABLE GOODS

Bajwa Shri Partap Singh;Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Kishor Shri Kamal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any institutional arrangement to take care of production, marketing and delivery of fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to provide remunerative prices to the farmers on one hand and to remove volatility in the prices of these perishable goods on the other?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): To enhance the production and productivity of horticultural crops, including fruits and vegetables and provide marketing support, a centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Horticulture Mission (NHM)" is being implemented in the country from 2005-06. All the States and Union Territories are covered under the Mission, except the eight North Eastern States and the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand which are covered under the 'Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States' (HMNEHS). There is a provision for providing assistance for creation of infrastructure for marketing of fruits and vegetables under these schemes. Further, a new programme on Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) has been launched with an outlay of Rs.300.00 crore during 2011-12 under the aegis of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY). The Scheme is being implemented in one city each of 29 States having a population of one million or closer to one million or capital city. Initially, the programme will be implemented for a period of one year (2011-12).The Scheme covers all aspects relating to formation of farmers association/ groups, training/capacity building of farmers, linking farmers group with aggregators/ markets, vegetable production and supply to urban centers starting from planting material to marketing to retail level.

(c): Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is being implemented on the request of a State/Union Territory Government for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities generally perishable in nature and not covered under Price Support Scheme. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when there is glut in the market and the prices tend to fall below economic levels/cost of production. Procurement under MIS may be made by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) as Central Agency and by the State designated agencies. Losses, if any incurred by the procuring agencies are shared between Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North Eastern States). However, the amount of loss to be shared between Central Government and the State Government is restricted to 25% of the procurement cost. Profit, if any, earned by the procuring agencies is retained by them.