

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:150
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
INPUT COST IN AGRICULTURE
Badal Harsimrat Kaur

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports that agriculture has become unviable in the country including Punjab due to high input costs invested by the farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to bail out the farmers including raising the Minimum Support Prices of various crops?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): The input cost borne by the farmers for major crops grown in Punjab for the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 are given in annexure.
- (c): The effect of rising input cost of cultivation is balanced by way of assuring MSP that help the farmers to receive adequate returns on their investment. Central Government agencies and State level bodies through their procurement operations in the market help the farmers sell their produce at MSP especially when market prices rule below MSP for that commodity. Government also promotes various technologies and agronomic practices like Integrated Pest Management, Integrated nutrient Management, Mechanisation, water conservation etc. to improve agricultural production and productivity and thereby bring down the cost of cultivation. Moreover, Government also improves the economic viability of farming through assistance to farmers under several programmes such as National Horticulture Mission, National Food Security Mission and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.