

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:11
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012
MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE
Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes any measures to improve marketing of agricultural produce in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to avoid middlemen in the field of agricultural marketing;
- (d) whether the Government also propose to strengthen co-operatives to improve agricultural marketing; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): In order to improve marketing of agriculture produce in the country, the Ministry of Agriculture framed a model Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act in 2003 and circulated to all States and Union Territories for making necessary amendments in their present State APMC Act on the basis of model Act. The model Act provides for reduction in the long intermediation, marketing cost, containing price rise and ensuring seamless movement of agricultural produce from producing areas to consuming points to promote development of a competitive alternative marketing channel viz. Direct Marketing, Contracting framing, setting up of private markets, single point levy of market fee, rationalization of fee etc. in the country. In addition to framing the aforesaid model APMC Act, the Ministry of Agriculture has also set up a Committee of Ministers, In-charge of Agricultural Marketing on 2nd March, 2010, which has been examining the market reform related issues. The first report of the Committee has been submitted to the Government on 8th September, 2011 and circulated to all the States and Union Territories for comments and its adoption.

The Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing various schemes to improve the agricultural marketing in the country which include Marketing Research and Information Network Scheme, Grameen Bhandaran Yojana and the Scheme for Strengthening/Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Grading and Standardization.

(d) & (e): 'Cooperation' being a State subject, the States are expected to take necessary steps to promote farming through cooperatives. However, the National Policy for Farmers formulated in consultation with the States, provides for encouraging and supporting small farmers' cooperatives. Several Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored schemes of the Government of India, such as, National Horticulture Mission, Scheme for Development/Strengthening of Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardisation, Rural Godown Scheme, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms, etc. under implementation, 'inter-alia', support cooperative institutions for promotion of agriculture.