

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2237
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
PRIVATE COMPANIES IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE TRADE
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that involvement of private companies in fruit and vegetable trade is against the interests of small farmers and a threat to the livelihood of small fruit and vegetable sellers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the monopoly of private companies may cause increase in the prices of fruits, vegetables and other agricultural produce; and
- (d) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) to (d): 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 the existing State APMC Acts. The Model Act provides for encouraging investments in development of required marketing infrastructure. It also promotes competitive alternative marketing channels viz. direct marketing, contract farming, private markets, etc in the interest of the farmers and trade. The innovative alternative channels of direct procurement of fruits and vegetables from the growers directly and development of post-harvest marketing infrastructure reduces the transaction/marketing cost and the post harvest losses. This helps in protection of the interests of small farmers by offering competitive market opportunities and remunerative prices to them, and also makes available fresh quality fruits and vegetables to the consumers at reasonable price.