

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4126  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2012  
PREMIUM PRICE FOR TURMERIC  
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether turmeric growers in the North-East Region face lack of premium price for their produce resulting in postharvest losses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to offer turmeric farmers a premium price by setting up processing units in various parts of the region, with the help of entrepreneurs and industry people; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): The prices of horticulture produce including turmeric, by and large are governed by the market forces of demand and supply. In addition to this, it also depends on prevailing weather conditions, crop prospects, cost of transportation, export demand etc. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is compiled on all India basis only, WPI for turmeric (Base Year 2004-05=100) has decreased from 190.1 in October, 2011 to 169.4 in October, 2012 registering a fall of 10.9 percent.

(c) & (d): The State Government of Meghalaya has set up a medium scale turmeric processing unit in Jaintia Hills which is a turmeric growing area. Turmeric Growers in Meghalaya also have set up by themselves Cottage turmeric processing units.

Spices Board under Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India is implementing several post harvest improvement programmes like turmeric boilers for community use and turmeric polishers to support the growers of turmeric in North-East region to adopt hygienic post harvest practices to improve the quality of the product.

To provide remunerative returns to the farmers and to ensure adequate supply of horticulture produce including turmeric to the consumers, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) provides assistance to the farmers under Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH). This includes assistance for cultivation, establishment of cold storages, setting up of terminal markets, wholesale markets and rural primary markets/apni mandies.

In addition, to protect the interest of the growers of horticultural commodities including turmeric, which are not covered under Price Support Scheme (PSS), the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is implemented on the specific request of the State/UT Government. MIS protects 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.