

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1313
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013
REMUNERATIVE PRICES TO POTATO GROWERS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware of bumper crops of potato during the current season in various potato growing States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the potato growing farmers are compelled to sell their produce below the cost of their production due to increase in costs incurred on production;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Union Government to protect the potato growing farmers and provide remunerative prices for their produce?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): As per present estimates, production of potato during 2012-13 is 424.78 lakh metric tones as against 414.83 lakh metric tones last year. A statement showing State-wise production of potato is Annexed.

The prices of potato are governed by market forces of demand & supply and depends upon a host of factors which influence production and arrivals in the market.

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, upon receipt of proposals from State Government implements Market Intervention Scheme for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities including potato, under which losses, if any, are shared between the Central Government and the State Government concerned on 50:50 basis.

Assistance is provided under National Horticulture Mission and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States for development of infrastructure for post harvest management such as cold storages, terminal markets, wholesale markets, rural primary market, apni mandies, etc., to ensure adequate supply of horticulture produce including potato to the consumers at reasonable prices and also to provide remunerative returns to the farmers.