

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2474

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013

MARKETING PLAN FOR FARM SECTOR

Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any Committee on 'Farm Marketing';
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has, in coordination with certain States, unveiled a new marketing plan for the farm sector;
- (d) if so, whether the Government intends to reform agricultural norms and strengthen the State Agricultural Marketing Boards by giving more financial powers;and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Agriculture constituted an Empowered Committee of State Ministers in-charge of Agricultural Marketing in 2010 in order to persuade the State Governments/Union Territories to implement the reforms in agriculture marketing through adoption of model APMC Act and to suggest further reforms necessary for smooth marketing of agricultural produce and to promote grading, standardization, packaging, and quality certification of agricultural produce. The Committee has been deliberating on the issues related to agricultural marketing reforms, investment for development of marketing infrastructure, barrier free supply chains, promotion of alternative marketing channels, simplification of contract farming procedures, provision of single unified license for trading as well as for wholesale and terminal markets, single point levy of market fee, and other related issues. The First Report of the Committee was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture in September, 2011 which has been circulated to States and Union Territories for consideration of the recommendations. Final Report of the Committee is awaited.

(c) to (e) 'Agriculture' and 'Market & Fair' are State subjects. However, the Ministry of Agriculture has been regularly pursuing with the States and UTs to amend their State APMC Acts on the lines of the Model Act circulated to them during 2003 for its adoption in order to bring reforms in agriculture marketing. Adoption of establishment of private yards and direct purchase of agricultural produce, single registration/license for trade transaction in more than one market, Provision of contract farming, promoting e-trading, single point levy of market fee, establishment of private markets and establishment of consumer/farmers market by a person other than Market Committee are being pursued with the States. In order to incentivize reforms, a Central Sector Scheme, namely, 'Development/Strengthening Agricultural marketing Infrastructure, Grading & Standardization' is being implemented under which the credit linked investment subsidy is provided in reformed States for development of marketing infrastructure for agricultural and allied commodities.

State Agricultural Marketing Boards function under the State Governments. Hence, giving more financial powers to them is the matter related to State Governments.