

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3675
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013
PRODUCTION OF ONION
Lal Shri Kirodi

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a bumper crop of onion in several parts of the country during the current season;
- (b) if so, the quantum of onion produced in the current season against the production in the corresponding season of the previous year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether cases of the farmers selling onion at throwaway prices and throwing the said produce away have come to light in various parts of the country; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures including market intervention scheme taken by the Government and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India/ National Cooperative Development Corporation?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): As per present estimates, production of onion during 2012-13 is 168.17 lakh metric tonnes as against 175.11 lakh metric tonnes last year. A statement showing State- wise production of onion during current year and the previous year is Annexed.

The prices of onion are governed by market forces of demand & supply and depends upon a host of factors which influence production and arrivals in the market. The average wholesale price of onion in major markets ranges from Rs.936 to 1747 per quintal.

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, upon receipt of proposals from State Governments implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities including onion, 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 onion to the consumers at reasonable prices and also to provide remunerative returns to the farmers. In addition, National Horticulture Board provides assistance for establishment of cold storages and National Cooperative Development Corporation provides assistance to cooperatives for establishment of cold storages including modernization.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited has been notified as Central Agency under MIS.