

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:580
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
REFORMS IN AGRICULTURAL MARKETING
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the programmes under implementation for facilitating marketing of their produce by the farmers;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to make certain radical reforms in agricultural marketing to ensure that the farmers get better returns for their produce and to eliminate middlemen altogether;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government's initiatives in the form of Minimum Support Price for agricultural produce and Market Intervention Scheme have not brought the desired results; and
- (e) if so, the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 580 DUE FOR REPLY ON 07th MAY, 2013.

(a) to (e): The price policy for agricultural produce seeks to ensure remunerative prices to growers. Government announces Minimum Support Prices for major agricultural commodities for each season and organizes their purchase through public, cooperative and other designated agencies in the eventuality of fall in their prices below the support level. Government also offers Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural and agricultural commodities which are generally perishable in nature and not covered under Price Support Scheme (PSS). MIS is implemented upon request by State Governments in order to prevent distress sales of these commodities when their prices fall below economic levels/cost of production.

In addition, Government implements various schemes such as Development/ Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization; Construction/ Renovation of Rural Godown; Marketing Research and Information Network; Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana; National Horticulture Mission, etc. for creation of marketing infrastructure, storage and post-harvest management of crops.

Government has also been pursuing with the States/UTs to undertake amendments to their APMC Acts to inter alia provide for direct marketing, contract farming, farmers/consumers markets, setting up of markets in private/cooperative sector and e-trading so as to provide alternative competitive marketing channels to farmers and bring in more transparency in the marketing system.

Overall, these initiatives have been successful in ensuring a better deal for farmers as witnessed by rising production levels, yields and incomes.