

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:21

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013

PRICES OF VEGETABLES AND FRUITS

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the prices of vegetables and fruits in wholesale and retail markets in the country have increased manifold in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the prices of onions and tomatoes have also increased due to their exports to other countries;
- (d) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government including operation of effective Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for fruits and vegetables; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to revamp the present National Horticulture Mission (NHM) to increase the production of fruits and vegetables in the country and if so, the details thereof?

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. 21 DUE FOR REPLY ON 6TH AUGUST, 2013.

(a) & (b): Monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of fruits and vegetables including onions and tomatoes, increased from 190.4 in January 2013 to 203.5 in June 2013, while retail prices displayed variation from month to month and market to market as per details at Annexure I & II.

Reasons for fluctuations in prices include seasonality of production, perishable nature of these commodities and mismatch in localized production and demand.

(c): No, Madam. 2.43 lakh MT onions were exported during June-July 2013 which is significantly lower in comparison to export of about 3.60 lakh MT onions during the corresponding period of last year. Tomatoes are not exported in significant quantity.

(d): Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of perishable commodities not covered under Price Support Scheme. MIS is implemented when prices fall below economic levels/cost of production or to avoid distress sale in the event of bumper crop during the peak arrival period.

(e): Government has decided to merge all horticulture schemes, under the umbrella of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and enhance funding therefor in order to provide more focused and comprehensive attention to this increasingly important sector.