

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:387

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015

DISTRESS SALE OF POTATOES

Jadhav Shri Sanjay Haribhau; Rai Shri Nityanand

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether distress sale of potatoes on account of lack of storage facilities/food processing units have been reported and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the States where such instances have been reported;
- (c) the corrective action taken by the Union Government to assist/ support the State Governments on the crisis faced by potato growers; and
- (d) the action being taken by the Government to absorb excess stocks of potatoes and promote export of processed foods including potatoes?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 387 DUE FOR REPLY ON 21ST APRIL, 2015.

(a) & (b): As per the information furnished by major producing states, the production of potatoes during 2014-15 is estimated at 449 lakh Metric Tonnes which is about 8.2% higher than last year. Owing to bumper production across the country, prices are ruling lower than last year. However, the major potato producing states of West Bengal, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat have not reported distress sale of potato owing to deficit in storage facilities.

(c): The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation operates Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural commodities including potatoes, which are perishable in nature and are not covered under Price Support System. MIS aims to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production. MIS is implemented at the request of a State / UT Government which is ready to bear 50 percent of the loss (25 percent in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.

The Central Government is writing regularly to the States for increasing Cold storage capacity, for bringing about reforms in APMCs, for setting up e-auction platforms and for non placing any restrictions on sale of potato outside the state of production.

(d): The measures for facilitating export of potato taken by the states of UP, Punjab, West Bengal and Gujarat are at Annexure.