

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5664

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015

AVAILABILITY OF STOCK OF ONION AND POTATO

Charitra Shri Ram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to stock up onion, potato to tame price rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the two Government entities National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium will be tasked with procuring and storing onion and potato; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) to (d): In order to control rising prices of important agri-horticulture commodities which are prone to excessive volatility, the Government has recently launched the Price Stabilisation Fund scheme with an allocation of Rs.500.00 crores. The intervention is to regulate price volatility through procurement by State Governments and Central Agencies of selected produce, maintenance of buffer stocks and regulated release into the market. Initially the fund is proposed to be used for onion and potato only. Going by the trend over the past few years, the Government has so far asked the two Central Agencies of Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) to procure onions and potatoes to preempt such an eventuality. An amount of Rs.5.00 crores has so far been approved for procurement of onions and potatoes by SFAC and of Rs.5.00 crores for procurement of onions by NAFED.