

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3525  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2015  
Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium  
Rajendran Shri S.

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has appointed Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium (SFAC) to set up a common e-platform;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the functions of the consortium;
- (c) the details of the norms and eligibility criteria fixed by the Government to appoint the SFAC;
- (d) the details of the number of mandis functioning at present, State-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government is considering to waive off the mandi tax for farmers to provide them maximum benefit, if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

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(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) have mandated Small Farmers' Agri Business Consortium (SFAC), which is a registered society of DAC, to act as the Lead promoter of National Agriculture Market (NAM). SFAC will select a Strategic Partner through open tender to develop, operate and maintain the NAM e-platform. SFAC will implement the NAM with budgetary grant support from DAC and technical support by the Strategic Partner.

NAM is envisaged as a pan-India electronic trading portal which seeks to primarily network 585 Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) market yards to create a national e-market for agricultural commodities. In addition, big private markets will also be allowed access to the software to enable better price discovery. DAC will provide the software free of cost to the States for setting up of NAM and for its customization to State specific requirements. In addition, a one time grant of upto Rs.30 lakhs per mandi towards fixed costs of equipment/infrastructure will also be provided.

The functions of the consortium as mentioned in Bye-Laws of SFAC are at Annexure-I

(c): The Government's decision to appoint SFAC as the Lead promoter of NAM is based on its experience in similar activity of setting up of a Kisan Mandi at Alipore, Delhi. The decision was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

(d): Details of mandis including rural Primary Markets as on 31.3.2014 are at Annexure-II.

(e): As per the States' Agricultural Produce Market (Regulation) Acts/Rules, market fee is not levied on farmers but levied normally on buyers in terms of percentage of the value of the produce transacted.