GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1598 ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016 e-NAM

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that in the absence of sound marketing facilities, farmers have to depend upon local traders and middlemen for disposal of their farm produce which is sold at throw-away price and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has recently launched a programme namely e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) in the entire country to break the monopoly of middlemen/traders and provide benefits to the farmers and consumers and if so, the details and outcome thereof:
- c) the details of terms and conditions, fund allocation and regulatory framework in this regard along with its utility to the farmers;
- (d) the details of the hurdles faced by the Government to implement the scheme in various States of the country and the remedial measures taken thereon; and
- (e) the details of the e-NAM proposal on procurement and the manner in which the procurement is likely to be taken to far flung areas and the manner in which cost of transportation will be distributed under the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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- (a): Farmers, specially small and marginal ones, contributing 85% of total land holdings with about 40% marketable surplus, find individually uneconomical to transport their meagre marketable surplus to distantly located mandis. As per report of National Commission on Farmers (2006) a regulated market should be available to farmers within area of 80 sq. km, while its all India average is 462 sq. km. Thus, lack of adequate number of markets and marketing facilities force the farmers to depend upon local traders and middlemen for disposal of their such farm produce.
- (b): In order to break the monopoly of middlemen/traders and provide maximum benefit to the farmers and provide quality produce at reduced cost to consumers, the Government has launched National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) scheme on 14th April, 2016 in 21 mandis across 8 States namely Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Telangana. Subsequently, 02 more mandis from Haryana have been integrated with e-NAM.
- (c): The e-NAM scheme has been approved on 01.07.2015 with a budget of Rs.200 crore. Under the scheme, a pan India electronic trading portal is being deployed in selected regulated wholesale markets in States across the country and 585 markets are proposed to be integrated with e-NAM by March, 2018.

For integration with e-NAM, States are required to complete certain pre-requisite reforms in their respective Agriculture Produce Marketing (Regulation) Acts to provide for (i) A single license to be valid across the State, (ii) Single point levy of market fee, and (iii) Provision for electronic auction as a mode of price discovery.

Under the scheme, the Government is providing software free of cost and grant up to Rs.30 lakh per mandi for related infrastructure/equipments including for assaying to the States who have carried all the three abovementioned pre-requisite reforms in their marketing regulations for integration of their mandis with e-NAM.

- e-NAM is expected to benefit the farmers through enhanced market access by way of allowing remote online bidding for their produce, removal of information asymmetry between buyers and sellers, real-time price discovery based on the actual demand-supply gap through transparent online auction, uniform marketing procedures, remuneration according to quality of produce and online payment directly to farmer's account.
- (d): Regulatory issues, operational issues, lack of Infrastructure, training, awareness, users adaptability issues, lack of capacity etc. are some of the hurdles being faced. The Government is pursuing with the States concerned to address these issues for smooth implementation of the scheme.

(e): e-NAM platform itself is not procuring and transporting commodities from one place to another. T	The role of e-NAM is to act as a
facilitator. All cost related to transaction and transportation will be borne by the buyer and/or seller.	
