

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1567

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014

CONVERSION OF FARMING INTO PROFITABLE VENTURE

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to convert farming into a profitable venture through scientific practices and Agrotechnology;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to address issues pertaining to pricing and procurement of agricultural produce crop insurance and post harvest management; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to promote the Animal Husbandry in the country?

Answer

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

(a): Agriculture is a State subject. It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to develop agriculture and allied sectors. However, Central Government supports the agricultural activities of the State Governments by providing financial and technical inputs through its various Missions/Schemes, such as, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology (NMAET), National Mission on Oilseed & Oilpalm (NMOOP), National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Marketing (ISAM), Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Cooperation (ISAC), National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) etc.

(b): While formulating price policy for any crop, care is taken that the farmer is assured of remunerative price for his produce and does not lose out on income in case prices in the market fall below the level of Minimum Support Prices (MSP). While recommending MSP, the CACP considers several relevant factors including the cost of cultivation/production, trends and spread of input use, production and productivity of the crop concerned, market prices both domestic and global, inter-crop price parity, emerging supply-demand situation, procurement and distribution, terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, and so on.

Government of India is implementing since 1985 crop insurance to protect farmers from adverse effects of natural calamities at national level. A restructured central sector scheme in the name of 'National Crop Insurance Programme' (NCIP) has been introduced by merging Pilot Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) & Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) with various improvements/changes for implementation throughout the country from Rabi 2013-14.

Agriculture Ministry has initiated a number of steps towards improving post-harvest management practices including cleaning and grading viz.

(i) Promotion of cleaning, sorting and grading of foodgrains at producer's level as per the grade standards formulated and notified after consultations with stakeholders including States and through provision of subsidy for creation/strengthening of post-harvest infrastructure including storage and other post-harvest infrastructure and capacity building under the Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM),

(ii) The Ministry also advocates reforms in agricultural marketing sector so that private sector is encouraged to invest in post-harvest infrastructure nearer to farmers' field;

(iii) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities have also developed a number of post-harvest equipments and technologies which help in reducing post-harvest losses. They also organize relevant trainings.

(c): Government has formulated various schemes/programmes for promotion of Animal Husbandry with following key outcomes;

1. Improvement in animal health through prevention and control of animal diseases & strengthening of animal health care infrastructure;

2. Promote genetic up-gradation of bovine;

3. Increasing milk production and providing assistance to farmers in the Dairy sector to get market access for their produce;

4. Development of feed and fodder to support the livestock population;

5. Development of poultry for production of eggs and poultry meat; and

6. Development of small ruminants for production of meat, milk and wool, etc.