

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3841
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014
PRODUCTION OF POTATO
Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been less production of potato in the country during the last year which has led to sudden rise in the prices of potato;
- (b) if so, the details of production of potato during the last three years and current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any concrete measures to regulate the prices of potato in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam. As per the estimates provided by the States, the All India production of potato during the current year 2013-14 has been lower by 2.3% as compared to 2012-13.

However, the price rise in potato is not solely due to reduction in production but is attributed to several factors such as (i) seasonality, (ii) adverse weather conditions, (iii) cost of transportation, (iv) cold storage costs, (v) speculation on impending shortage situation, etc.

(b): State-wise details of area and production of potato during the last three years and the current year are given at annexure.

(c) & (d): Sir, Madam. Following important steps have been taken by the Government to regulate the price of potato in the country:

Minimum Export Price (MEP) of US\$ 450 per MT has been imposed on potato w.e.f. 26.06.2014.

Stock limits in respect of potato have been imposed for a period of one year with effect from 3rd July, 2014 under the Essential Commodities Act.

Advisory to State Governments have been issued to take action against hoarding & black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 & the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) has recently launched Kisan Mandi in Delhi to cater to the huge market for fruits and vegetables by sourcing these directly from Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Growers' Associations.