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14.14 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER
PRICE POLICY FOR KHARIF CROPS
OF 2003-04 SEASON

Title: Regarding price policy for Kharif crops of 2003-2004 season.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Sir, the Government has fixed the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of *Kharif* Crops of 2003-04 season. The MSP of paddy common and paddy Grade-A has been raised by Rs. 20 each as compared to the previous year and fixed at Rs. 550 and Rs. 580 per quintal respectively.

The MSPs of *Jowar*, *Bajra*, *Maize* and *Ragi* have been raised by Rs. 20 each and fixed at Rs. 505 per quintal as against Rs. 485 per quintal fixed for the previous year.

The MSP of *Arhar* (Tur) has been raised to Rs. 1,360 per quintal as against Rs. 1,320 per quintal for the previous year, thus marking an increase of Rs. 40 per quintal. Similarly, the MSPs of *Moong* and *Urad* have been raised by Rs. 40 per quintal as compared to the previous year.

The MSP of Groundnut-in-shell has been fixed at Rs.1400 per quintal marking an increase of Rs.45 per quintal as compared to the last year. Similarly, the MSPs of Soyabean (yellow) and Soyabean (black) have been raised by Rs.45 per quintal and fixed at Rs.930 and Rs.840 per quintal respectively...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, they cannot make the House function like this...(Interruptions) This House is represented by the people of India...(Interruptions)

श्री मोहन रावले (मुम्बई दक्षिण मध्य) : मुम्बई में लोग मर रहे हैं। (व्यवधान)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : रावले जी, मैंने कहा कि मैं आपको बोलने के लिए चांस दूंगा।

(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to me. After his speech I will give you the floor.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: The MSP of Sunflower Seed has been raised from Rs.1195 per quintal last year to Rs.1250 per quintal for the 2003-04 season.

As compared to the last year, the MSPs of Sesamum and Nigerseed have been fixed at Rs.1485 per quintal and Rs.1155 per quintal respectively marking an increase of Rs.35 per quintal.

The MSP of Cotton (F-414/H-777/J-34) and (H-4) varieties have been raised by Rs.50 per quintal as compared to the previous year.

It is expected that the increases effected in the MSPs of the *kharif* crops will encourage the farmers for increasing the production and productivity of the crops in the country and will also encourage the farmers in diversification of crops.

(Placed in Library. See No.L.T.7853/A/2003)
