

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2318
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2024

FAIR AND TIMELY PAYMENTS TO FARMERS

2318. SMT. PRATIMA MONDAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government acknowledges the persistent failure to ensure Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops like rice, soyabean, and cotton in Maharashtra, and the steps being taken to address this issue effectively;
- (b) whether the Government has implemented any farm loan waiver schemes during the last eleven years, while reportedly waiving off significant loans for large industrialists, and the manner in which this aligns with the goal of farmer welfare, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of measures being planned to ensure fair and timely payment to farmers, especially for crops that have witnessed price volatility and underpayment; and
- (d) whether the Ministry has any plans to create a robust price assurance mechanism to safeguard farmers' incomes and prevent distress sales of crops like soyabean and cotton?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

- (a) to (d): Every year, Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated agricultural crops including Paddy, Soyabean and Cotton for the country as a whole and not region or state-specific, based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned.

The Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced the pre-determined principle to keep Minimum Support Price (MSP) at levels of one and half times of the cost of production. Accordingly, Government had increased MSP for all mandated Kharif, Rabi and other Commercial crops with a minimum return of 50 percent over all India weighted average cost of production from year 2018-19 onwards to ensure remunerative price to farmers.

Government of India has not implemented any farm loan waiver scheme since Agriculture Debt Waiver Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS), 2008. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government of India to waive off the loans of farmers of the country.

To realize the objectives of MSP Policy, after announcement of MSP, Government extends price support for paddy and wheat through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies. Additionally, Oilseeds, pulses and copra of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) are procured from registered farmers under Price Support Scheme (PSS) under Umbrella Scheme of PM-AASHA, as per its guidelines when market price of these products fall below the MSP. Cotton and Jute are also procured by Government at MSP through Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and Jute Corporation of India (JCI), respectively.

Government has increased the duty on the import of soyabean from 12.5% to 32.5% to ensure that soyabean farmers receive better prices for their crops thus increasing their income.
