

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2064
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2002
FIXATION OF M.S.P. FOR FRUITS
ANADI CHARAN SAHU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the middlemen system has created hurdles for the fruit growers;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) for specific fruits; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The various State Governments have enacted Agricultural Produce Market Acts to curb the role of middlemen. However, the regulated markets have served the limited purpose. The Government of India has suggested to States various reform measures in the agricultural marketing sector including amendment to the State Agricultural Produce Market Acts for promotion of direct marketing, contract farming etc. for the benefit of the farmers.

(b)&(c): For commodities not covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme already there is a scheme viz., Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) under which horticultural and other agricultural crops, which are perishable in nature are covered. In order to protect the growers of horticultural and agricultural commodities from distress sales in the event of bumper crop during the peak arrival periods when price fall below the economic level, MIS scheme is implemented for a particular commodity on the requests of the State Governments which are ready to bear 50% of losses (25% in the case of north eastern States) if any, in its implementation. The crops covered under the MIS include onion, potato, malta, kinno, galgal, chillies, ginger, apple, oil palm, arecanut etc.