

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:125
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE TO FARMERS
Khandelwal Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the farmers are unaware of the Minimum Support Price for their agricultural produce;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed by the Government to disseminate information about its various programmes to the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 125 DUE FOR REPLY ON 27TH FEBRUARY, 2006.

(a) & (b): According to Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in its 59th Round (January – December, 2003), 71 per cent of farmers did not know or understand the concept of Minimum Support Price. Remaining 19 per cent not only understood the idea of Minimum Support Price but also knew the agency to which they would sell their crop if its market price fell below the Minimum Support Price.

(c): To create awareness among farmers, support is provided to the States in strengthening extension programmes through a number of schemes. The various schemes include: support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms, Mass Media Support to Agriculture, Kisan Call Centres and Establishment of Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centres. The information about various Government programmes relating to agriculture and allied sectors is regularly provided to the states/farmers through the Department's website, Mass Media programmes in agriculture and various exhibitions/Kisan melas. The related information and knowledge to the farming community is also provided through 180 Narrow Casting Centres, 18 Regional Centres, 1 National Doordarshan Kendra and through 96 FM Radio Stations. Further, to make extension system farmers driven and farmer accountable, Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMA) have been established in 218 districts in the country for technology dissemination.