

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1540  
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004  
CULTIVATION OF POTATO  
Panda Shri Prabodh

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is purchasing potatoes from West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the quantum of potatoes procured during the last one year and in the current year till date; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to attract farmers towards the cultivation of potatoes?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): On the request of Government of West Bengal, the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of 20,000 MT potato at the Market Intervention Price (MIP) of Rs.200/- per Qtl. was implemented from 07.4.2003 to 06.5.2003. During the period, a quantity of 8594 MT potato was procured. No proposal has been received in the Department from the Government of West Bengal for implementation of MIS for procurement of potato, so far, during the current year.

(c): As per the Work Plan of the West Bengal Government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro Management in Agriculture, farmers are being attracted towards cultivation of potato through Transfer of Technology i.e. demonstration and training of advanced technology along with the seed production. Also a scheme on `Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Modernization/Expansion of Cold Storage and Storages for Horticulture Produce` is being implemented for creation of storage capacity for horticulture produce including potatoes.