

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:540  
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006  
PROCUREMENT OF OILSEED  
Mohite Shri Subodh

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

- (a) the target fixed and actual procurement of oilseeds particularly mustard made by National Agricultural Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) during the current year;
- (b) whether the delay in release of funds by the Government to NAFED for procurement of mustard has led to delay in the process of procurement;
- (c) if so, the details and reasons therefor and by when the said funds are likely to be released;
- (d) whether the Government has fixed any time limit for payment of minimum support price to the farmers for their oilseed production;
- (e) if so, the steps taken to ensure adherence to the said limit for payment of remunerative price to the farmers; and
- (f) the steps taken to streamline the procurement of oilseeds particularly mustard in view of its bumper production in the country, particularly in Rajasthan?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 540 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND MAY, 2006.

(a): The purpose of Price Support Scheme (PSS) is to stabilise the market. Therefore, no target in terms of quantity is fixed for procurement of oilseeds including mustard. During the current Rabi crop season, NAFED, as a Central nodal agency has, so far, procured a total quantity of 20.75 lakh MT of mustard seed, 22,486 MT of safflower seed and 23 MT of sunflower seed under PSS.

(b)&(c): Under PSS, only Fair Average Quality (FAQ) stocks are procured. There has been no delay in the process of procurement for any reason.

(d)&(e): The finance for payment to farmers for their produce, procured under PSS, is arranged through Cash Credit Limit (CCL) and Letters of Comfort issued by the Government to various Nationalised/commercial banks. Soon after availing finance against CCL/Letters of Comfort, NAFED makes payment to the farmers. NAFED, as a Central agency, has been advised to utilize the amount to make payment to the farmers only.

(f): In view of the bumper production of mustard seed in the country during Rabi 2006, NAFED, as central agency, has made adequate arrangements for procurement of mustard seed like; availability of gunny bag, storage space, transportation. Besides, the Government has approved letters of comfort/cash credit limit to Rs.4000 crore for undertaking procurement of mustard seed during Rabi 2006.