

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3633
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
STANDARDIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether an Expert Committee to Facilitate Standardization in Agricultural Commodities has submitted its report ;
- (b) If so, the details of recommendations of the committee ;
- (c) If not, the time by which the said report is likely to be submitted ;
- (d) Whether the Codex Standard is being made applicable ;
- (e) If so, the details thereof; and
- (f) If not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

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

(a) : Ministry of Agriculture has not set up an Expert Committee to facilitate standardization in Agricultural Commodities. However, Department of Consumer Affairs has set up a Working Group on Standards and Grading of Agricultural Commodities in order to identify key agricultural commodities which are high on the list of priorities in terms of the both commodity futures trading and price monitoring and align domestic standards of these agricultural commodities to the best international standards. The Working Group consists of representatives from Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Department of Agriculture Research and Education, Bureau of Indian Standards, Forward Markets Commission, Senior Economic Adviser and three national multi-commodity Exchanges.

(b)&(c): The Working Group is yet to submit its report. However, in its two meetings, the Working Group has identified 31 agricultural commodities on the basis of their importance for futures' grading and price monitoring. Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI), Faridabad and attached office of this Ministry has been asked to update/harmonise standards of 25 commodities and frame harmonized standards of 4 commodities. Bureau of Indian Standards has to update/harmonise standards of 6 commodities.

(d)&(e): Codex Alimentarius Commission has formulated standards of few agricultural commodities. These standards are advisory for member countries. Codex standards are considered while formulating/revising standards of agricultural commodities. The emphasis is given to characteristics and intrinsic quality of Indian produce while fixing the standards.

(f) : Question does not arise.