

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:740

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007

MSP OF MUSTARD

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the farmers have produced a bumper crop of Mustard in the country during the current year;
- (b) if so, whether the farmers are not getting the remunerative price of their produce;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the arrangements made by the Government for procurement of mustard at Minimum Support Price (MSP);
- (d) whether the procurement agencies are procuring only a small quantity of this produce;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether a low import price for mustard is expected during the ensuing seasons; and
- (g) if so, the steps being taken to protect the interest of the domestic farmers?

Answer

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

(a): The production of mustard/rapeseed in the country is estimated at 75.68 lakh tonnes for the year 2006-07. This is lower than 81.31 lakh tonnes produced in 2005-06.

(b) to (e): The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for mustard/rapeseed for the year 2006-07 is Rs.1715/- per quintal. As per Market information, the wholesale prices of mustard/rapeseed in two major markets at the end of January, 2007 ranged between Rs.1700/- per quintal in Rajasthan (Hindaun market) to Rs. 1910/- per quintal in Delhi. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) is the Nodal Agency for undertaking procurement operation for mustard/rapeseed every year.

During the year Rabi-2006, NAFED has procured 22.05 lakh Metric Tonnes (MTs) of mustard seeds. NAFED has also made requisite arrangements for undertaking procurement operation for Rabi 2007 mustard/rapeseed.

(f): As per the data of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the import of mustardseeds during April-June, 2006-07 (latest available) stood at 680 tonnes. The unit price is Rs.19,603.00 per tonne (1tonne =1000 Kg.). Price of import depends on the market forces.

(g): To protect the interest of the domestic farmers, Government of India has already announced MSP for Rabi 2007 mustard/rapeseed at Rs.1715/- per quintal. It has also made arrangements for procurement operation in all the producing states.