

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:847

ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017

Remunerative Prices for Potato, Tomato and Onion

Singh Shri Bhola;Singh Shri Lallu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that potato/ tomato/onion growing farmers do not get even the cost price of their produce during the current season as a result of which incidents of leaving their produce in the fields or throwing on the roads by the farmers were witnessed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce market intervention mechanism like the minimum support price system for potato, tomato and onion as is being done in respect of paddy, sugarcane, wheat and other crops;
- (d) if not, whether the Government proposes to develop some other mechanism so as to ensure fair prices to the aforesaid farmers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to provide compensation to the aforesaid farmers to make good their losses?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Horticultural produce is highly perishable in nature due to higher moisture content and cannot be stored at ambient temperature for longer period, many of them are also not amenable to be stored in cold storage for sustained period. Therefore, arrival of the produce in very high volumes during the peak harvesting season sometimes depresses Wholesale Prices.

(c) to (e): Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under the Price Support Scheme. The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production. It is implemented on the specific request of the concerned State/UT Government, which has to bear 50% of the loss (25% in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.

Government has taken several other measures to ensure remunerative prices to farmers and stabilize its price in the market which, inter-alia, include Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), mobilisation of farmers into Farmer Producer Organisations for aggregation and economies of scale, assistance for development of post harvest management and marketing infrastructure, etc.
