

Regarding problems being faced by farmers due to the lack of a legal Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various crops

DR. BACHHAV SHOBHA DINESH (DHULE): Honorable Chairperson Madam, I rise today to draw the attention of this August House to the grave situation faced by the farmers of my constituency, Dhule, as well as the entire North Maharashtra region, including Nashik, Jalgaon, and Nandurbar. Today, our Baliraja is trapped in a triple crisis: the wrath of nature, market instability, and the impact of global geopolitical tensions.

Madam Chairperson, the condition of onion growers has become extremely pathetic. Due to the lack of a legal Minimum Support Price (MSP) for onions, farmers are forced to sell their produce at throwaway prices. Furthermore, due to the war-like situation in West Asia and the Red Sea crisis, our exports have completely collapsed, and shipping costs have skyrocketed by 200% to 300%. Similarly, cotton, soybean, and maize farmers in Dhule and Jalgaon are in deep distress as prices have fallen below the actual cost of production. The grape growers of Nashik and the banana farmers of Jalgaon are fighting a battle on two fronts: global conflict and climate change. The unseasonal rain and hailstorms in January and February 2026 have already damaged crops over more than 50,000 hectares of land.

Madam, through you, I urge the Government to take an immediate and decisive action. A guaranteed legal MSP must be provided for onions, and the government should provide a 50% direct subsidy on transport to compensate for the surge in freight costs caused by global tensions. Furthermore, the number of NAFED and CCI procurement centers in Dhule and North Maharashtra must be increased to ensure 100% procurement of cotton, soybean, and maize at MSP. Additionally, a special financial package should be announced for the farmers of North Maharashtra who have suffered heavy losses due to these unseasonal rains and global market fluctuations.

Madam, if the Government does not intervene immediately, the rural economy of North Maharashtra will be completely devastated. I earnestly request the government, through this House, to rescue our Annadata from this dire crisis and provide them with the justice they deserve.

Thank you.

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13.00 hrs