

BANGALORE, May 15, 2014

Launch of online commodity trading in 35 APMC markets this year



Shamanur Shivashankarappa

For the benefit of farmers, the State government has decided to launch online trading in various commodities through the Rashtriya e-Market Services (ReMS) in 35 major Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) markets in the current financial year (2014–15).

So far, online trading has been launched in Tiptur, Arsikere, Tumkur and Chamarajanagar markets.

Unified platform

Addressing presspersons here on Wednesday, Minister for Agricultural Marketing Shamanur Shivashankarappa said the Unified Market Platform (UMP) through the ReMS would be implemented in Gulbarga, Yadgir, Sedam, Gadag, Bidar, Bijapur, Chitradurga, Challakere, Tumkur and Belgaum markets on June 10.

All commodities in these APMC markets would be traded online.

The government had implemented online trading to develop a barrier-free market for farmers.

Now, wholesale dealers and major traders in different parts of the State were participating in online trading and quoting competitive prices. The new system eliminated the role of middlemen and unfair trade practices, he said.

Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan governments were studying the Karnataka model of UMP. Already, two rounds of talks were held with the Odisha government, he said.

The Minister said the market cess for fruits and vegetables had been abolished in APMC markets from April 2014.

The collection of cess in 2013–14 was Rs. 30 crore. However, the department had decided to collect user charges from traders and farmers if they utilised cold storage and warehouse facilities in APMC markets, he said.

The market fee collected from APMCs increased from Rs. 334 crore in 2012–13 to Rs. 386.5 crore, an increase of 15 per cent, in 2013–14. A decision was taken to hold commodity-wise melas in different districts to attract better prices for commodities.

Coconut growers

On the plight of coconut growers, the minister said growers had formed four self-help groups in Tumkur, Chitradurga and Mandya to inform one another about prices and marketing trends for coconut.

A Spice Development Board had been set up in Hubli, he added.

Mr. Shivashankarappa said that a new policy would be unveiled soon to boost horticultural exports from the State.