

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) 'Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations' provides financial assistance to the tune of 75% of the unit cost of a kit consisting of Global Positioning System (GPS), communication equipment, echo-sounder and search & rescue beacon to ensure the safety of fishermen at sea. Besides, Indian Coast Guard regularly conducts community interaction programmes and provides assistance the fishermen while, in distress at sea.

Indigenous variety of Bt. cotton seeds

1501. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) has released an indigenous variety of Bt. Cotton seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the difference between the Bt. Cotton seeds available in the market and the new one developed by the CICR;

(d) whether any bio-safety concerns have been expressed;

(e) if so, whether those concerns have been redressed;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 'BN Bt' variety was developed by the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dhanwad, the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur and the National Research Center on Plant Biotechnology (NRCPB), New Delhi. The genetically modified variety was subjected to bio-safety tests and finally approved for commercial cultivation in India in 2008 in the 84th meeting of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) held on 2nd May, 2008.

(c) The difference in the commercially available Bt cotton hybrids and the newly developed variety (BN Bt) is that the farmers can reuse the seeds of this variety without having to buy seeds from the market every year, as in the case of commercial Bt cotton hybrids.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise, Sir.

(f) Does not arise, Sir.

(g) The bio-safety experiments were conducted as per the guidelines stipulated by the RCGM and GEAC, New Delhi and BN Bt variety was found to be safe.

Implementation of NFSM in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra

1502. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released to Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra under National Food Security Mission;

(b) whether funds released have been spent and objectives achieved;

(c) if so, the details of area and productivity increased;

(d) whether soil fertility programmes contemplated under the mission have been achieved and details of farm level progress;

(e) whether implementation of the scheme resulted in enhanced farm level economy to restore confidence among farmers; and

(f) whether implementation of scheme resulted in promotion and extension of improved technologies i.e., Seed, Integrated Nutrient Management including Micro Nutrient, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and resource conservation technologies along with capacity building of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The funds released to Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (till date) are as under:

(Rupees in crore)

Year	Funds released	Expenditure reported by the State
Andhra Pradesh		
2007-08	44.62	26.07
2008-09	84.15	83.78
2009-10	93.91	The year has just commenced and the programme is in progress
Maharashtra		
2007-08	14.14	7.42
2008-09	72.17	68.16
2009-10	56.00	The year has just commenced and the programme is in progress