

Union Finance Minister, in its meeting held on 1st July, 2009 and the HLC approved as under:-

- (i) Rs. 83.83 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to the adjustment of 75% of balance available in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) account of the State.
- (ii) Rs. 14.28 crores from Special Component of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), implemented by the Department of Drinking Water Supply.

#### **Expansion of NAIS**

3666. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 4 per cent of the country's farmers have availed the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) cover and more than 57 per cent farmers are unaware of crops being insured;

(b) whether a modified version of the existing insurance scheme for farmers is under examination by Government to expand the risk cover to more and more farmers;

(c) whether the present crop insurance scheme covers 23 States and 2 UTs and whether the Agricultural Insurance Corporation is insisting for a hike in premium for expanded coverage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) No, Sir. At present, about 15.8% of total farmer's holdings are being covered under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). For better awareness about the scheme and to expand its coverage, particularly for non-loanee farmers, publicity campaigns both in print and electronic media through States/implementing agency is carried out.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) NAIS, at present, is being implemented by 25 States and 2 Union Territories.

No, Sir. For normal risk coverage (sum insured) flat premium rates ranging between 1.5% to 3.5% for food (including pulses), oilseeds and actuarial rates for annual commercial/horticultural crops are being charged. In case farmer wants to avail higher level of risk coverage (upto 150% of sum insured) commercial/actuarial rates of premium would be charged in respect of food and oilseed crops.

#### **Alternative arrangements to tackle the uncertainty of monsoon**

3667. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: