

As per provisions of the scheme, farmers are not required to file/lodge any claims. The payment of claims in a notified area becomes payable if there is a short fall in yield against guaranteed yield due to any non-preventable risk.

(b) and (d) Yes, Sir. Based on the recommendations of the Joint Group on Crop Insurance, constituted by the Government, a proposal on Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) has been prepared. Modified NAIS *inter alia* include reduction in the unit area of insurance for major crops, improved method of calculation of threshold yield; higher indemnity level; coverage of additional risk etc.

(e) and (f) In view of improvements in the proposed Modified NAIS more farmers would like to take insurance cover and hence, more farmers would be benefited by way of payment of compensation. As the scheme is yet to be finalized, no claim amount has been paid so far under the Modified NAIS.

Corruption in regional testing laboratories at Kanpur and Chandigarh

3658. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been received from the industry about corruption in the regional testing laboratories at Kanpur and Chandigarh;

(b) is there any specific complaint received about officials in the laboratory demanding ratifications for modification of reports on results;

(c) if so, the nature of enquiries made into these complaints;

(d) the action taken in the specific cases of complaints; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to avoid corruption in national testing laboratories in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (d) A complaint was received from pesticides industry regarding analysis of pesticide samples at the two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs) located at Kanpur and Chandigarh. Following the complaint, some of the pesticide samples which were earlier tested by these RPTLs were re-analyzed at the Central Insecticides Laboratory (CIL), Faridabad. This revealed that a number of samples which were reported to be 'misbranded' or 'branded' by RPTLs were found 'branded' or 'misbranded' respectively. The officers in charge of RPTLs were placed under suspension and disciplinary proceedings initiated against them.

(e) Multi-tier coding system has been adopted in the Central Insecticides Laboratory (CIL), Faridabad as well as the Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs), Chandigarh and Kanpur so that identity of pesticide samples is not revealed right from receipt of sample to dispatch of the test report from the laboratory.

Co-operative farming

3659. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is introducing co-operative farming as a new initiative covering one or two villages in every district, without compelling farmers, to achieve agriculture growth in long term;

(b) if so, the details thereof worked out so far especially for Andhra Pradesh compared to other States; and

(c) the funds to be earmarked for this purpose for the current five year plan and the role of farmers in this regard especially for Andhra Pradesh?

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

(a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed a scheme on following premises (i) Pooling of land of all farmers of a village on a voluntary basis and the land to be managed by the legal entity to be formed by the farmers, (ii) The Government to render maximum assistance for the success of the effort with least interference (iii) The government will ensure to provide guaranteed income to each share holder on the basis of maximum income earned by them during the last five years, and (iv) The main aspect of the scheme is to select 2 villages in 22 districts for integrated Agricultural collectively farming. The farmers are proposed to be given shares in lieu of their surrendering of individual rights over their land to the proposed body/society. The Government will provide seed capital equivalent to the land value contributed by farmers during first five years and banks have to be approached for extending loans to a tune of three to four times against the land guarantee to be offered by the farmers body. The well established practice of Consent Awards will be followed for acquisition of land (Jalayagnam) thereafter works will be followed for arriving at valuation of land, pooled up. The scheme once evolved, is planned to be implemented on an experimental basis in two villages selected in the district, based on the success of the projects. One month time is given for response from villages to be identified through a Gramsabha resolution to reach the Government of Andhra Pradesh before 28.8.2009.

(c) The information sought in the question about state-wise details is not maintained in the Department. However, Government of Andhra Pradesh has stated that in Andhra Pradesh, 2,295 Joint Farming Cooperatives are registered with a total membership of 1,92,716 covering a total area of 2,62,776 acres. Out of these, 898 societies were extended finance assistance to a tune of Rs. 796.75 lakhs.

Calling back of fishermen by Coast Guard

3660. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints that the Coast Guard routinely handles our fishermen in a very rough way;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Coast Guard interrupts fishing operations for trivial reasons and generally call back fishermen to the port;

(c) has Government considered a code of conduct for the Coast Guard to ensure that such incidents are not repeated;