

- (a) the schemes for promotion of organic fertilizers in the country;
- (b) whether Government is planning to provide subsidies on organic fertilizers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Government is promoting organic fertilizers by providing financial assistance under the following schemes:—

- (i) Under National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) financial assistance for setting up organic input production units @ 25% of the total cost of project up to Rs. 40.00 lakh per unit for fruit/vegetable waste compost units and Rs. 1.50 lakh per unit for vermiculture hatcheries is provided as credit linked back ended subsidy through NABARD.
- (ii) Under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) financial assistance is provided for setting up vermicompost units @ 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs 30,000/- per beneficiary.
- (iii) Under National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF) there is provision for promotion of organic fertilizer upto Rs. 500/- per hectare.
- (iv) Assistance is also available for organic fertilizers under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY).
- (d) Does not arise.

Launch of Bt. Cotton technology by Monsanto

4630. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had earlier given approval to Monsanto to launch its Bt. Cotton technology between 2002 to 2005 and the Bt. Cotton seeds have been sold at an exorbitant price of Rs. 1800 to Rs. 2000 per packet leading to trail of incidents of suicides by farmers;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission had indicated Monsanto and passed an interim order stating that Monsanto was indeed following restrictive trade practices; and
- (c) if so, the reasons why Government is allowing a tainted multinational company to function?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Approval was given by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to M/s Mahyco for commercial cultivation of Bt. Cotton hybrids Bollgard-

I and II in 2002 and 2006 Farmers' suicide on account of exorbitant prices of cotton seed have not been reported by the nine major cotton growing States.

(b) and (c) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission *vide* its Interim Order dated 11th May, 2006 had directed the company not to charge trait value of Rs. 900 per packet of Bt. Cotton seed during the pendency of the case and to fix a reasonable trait value in line with what the parent company charges in China. Currently Bollgard-I and II seeds are being sold at Rs. 750 to Rs. 925 per packet in the country. Other than M/s Mahyco Monsanto Biotech Limited (MMBL), 619 hybrids of Bt. Cotton are being produced by 40 Companies/Agencies, with Bt. technology being provided by as many as five Companies/Agencies including hybrid/variety of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Farmers' suicides

4631. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of suicides taken place in the State of Rajasthan, amongst members of the farming community since 2008; and

(b) the number of farmers that have committed suicide in different States and Union Territories since 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per information furnished by the Government of Rajasthan, there is no reported incident of suicide by farmers in the State.

(b) The number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons, as reported by the State Governments and Union Territories concerned, is given in Statement.

Statement

Number of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons as reported by State Governments

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period (Date of report)	No. of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2008	419
		2009	219
2.	Karnataka	2008-09	155
		2009-10	97
3.	Maharashtra	2008	627
		2009	503