

(e) whether help of Panchayati Raj institutions will be sought for this?

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

(a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) along with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) have developed several early maturing varieties of crops which perform well under moisture stress and drought conditions. Some of these varieties/hybrids are: **Wheat** (PBW 527, HD 2888, HI 1531, HI 1500, HD 8627, HD 2888); **Barley** (HBL 276, RD 2660, K 603); **Rice** (Vandana, Anjali, Dataswari, PNR-519, VL Dhan 208, Varendra, Sahbhagi Dhan); **Maize** (Pusa Hybrid Makka-1, 2 and 5, Vivek-33, Vivek-23, HM-4, Vivek-27, Pusa Extra Early-5, PMH-2, Pratap-1 and Vivek QPM-9); **Chickpea** (RSG 888, RSG 963, RSG-14, ICCV-10, Kabuli); **Lathyrus** (Bio L212); **Mothbean** (CAZRI Moth 3); **Horse Gram** (AK21); **Guar** (RGC 936); **Groundnut** (JGN-3, K134, Kadiri 6, CSMG-84-1, GG-2); **Mustard** (Pusa Bahar, JD-6, Shivani, RB-50, RGM-48); **Soybean** (NRC 7, JS 71-05) **Cotton** (HD 123, RG 18, Jawahar Tapti, Omshankar, RAJDH 7); **Sugarcane** (CO 8371, Co 980-14; **Jute** (JRO-524, Shyamali).

(b) The production of wheat in 1980-81 was 36.31 million tonnes which increased to 80.58 million tonnes in 2008-09 and accordingly, the production of wheat has not declined since eighties.

(c) The names of the important improved varieties of less water consuming in local coarse grains are **Sorghum** (CSH 15R, CSH 19R, CSV-18, RSLG-262, CSH-12R); **Pearl Millet** (HHB 67 improved, GHB-757, GHB-538); **Ragi** (Shakthi, TRY-1, VR 708, A 404); **Foxtail Millet** (AK 132-1, Kodo-KK-2), and **Little Millet** (OLM-20).

(d) and (e) Participatory seed production has been started at different centers of ICAR Institutes and SAUs under National Seed Project (Crops). Presently, several State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and ICAR Institutes across the country are producing quality seeds of improved varieties in different crops through farmers' participation. In this programme Panchayats can help to a great extent in boosting the seed production.

#### **New Fertilizer Policy**

†3875. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that difference of opinion has emerged in Government on New Fertilizer Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had sought any suggestions from representatives of people, farmers and industrial groups for New Fertilizer Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government has introduced Nutrient Based Subsidy policy with effect from 1.4.2010. Wide consultations were held with the State Governments, Fertilizer Industry and concerned Ministries and Departments of Government of India while finalizing the policy on Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS). The NBS was approved by the Government after considerations and recommendations by the Group of Ministers.

#### **Decontrolling of prices of fertilizers**

3876. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for decontrolling of prices of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this would empower the manufacturers liberty in fixing the prices;

(d) if so, whether Government has contemplated mechanism to protect the interest of the farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) The Government has introduced Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy in respect of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers (except SSP) with effect from 1.4.2010. This policy is applicable on SSP with effect from 1.5.2010. As per this policy, the Government shall pay subsidy to the manufacturers/importers on DAP, MOP, NPK Complexes (12 grades), MAP, TSP, Ammonium Sulphate (AS) and SSP based on the nutrients contained therein. Though the MRP is being fixed by Companies, the Government has fixed the subsidy under Nutrient Based Subsidy in such a manner that the MRP with effect from 1.4.2010 fixed by companies in near to the earlier level of MRP. A marginal increase of Rs. 30 per bag only has taken place. In case of MOP, no increase has taken place and in case of SSP there is reduction of Rs. 70 per bag.

#### **Availability of fertilizers**

3877. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the production, demand and supply of various fertilizers in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, fertilizer-wise and State-wise;