

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) All companies, Indian as well as international, are required to provide quality pesticides to farmers as per provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968 and Rules framed thereunder.

Prices of pesticides are determined by market forces.

(c) and (d) Both, Indian as well as multinational companies, are granted registration for pesticide formulations for import without registration of technical grade pesticide so as to encourage introduction of new and better molecules in Indian agriculture.

Discovery of 22 new varieties of wheat

†2902. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the research institutes of the country have discovered 22 new varieties of wheat which have the capacity to be immune to Uganda-99 disease;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether such varieties of seeds are needed in the present circumstances of the country;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that at present, the country is in need of seeds of such crops that can provide more yields with less consumption of water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes Sir. 22 varieties of wheat have been found to have resistance against Uganda 99: (Ug99) disease.

(b) There is continuous screening of varieties and advanced breeding lines under hot-spot conditions in Kenya and Ethiopia against the new black rust race Ug99. During 2009-10, out of 421

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

genotypes screened in Kenya, 40 released varieties were found to be resistant to Ug99. Out of these varieties, 22 varieties namely DBW17, DDK1009, DL153-2, DL788-2, HD4672, HI8498, HI8627, HP1744, HP1761, HS295, HS420, HUW234, LOK-1, MACS2846, NIDW295, NW2036, PDW291, UP2338, VL829, WH147, WH542 and WH896 are in seed production chain for commercial cultivation in India.

(c) The varieties found resistant to Ug99 are already in commercial cultivation in different production systems of wheat growing areas of the country.

(d) There is a constant survey and surveillance by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in areas prone to the Ug99. At present, this disease is not prevalent in the Indian Territory. However, the breeding programmes are continuing to develop still better improved varieties possessing resistance to Ug99 and higher yield potential.

(e) Keeping in view the deficit of water in different areas, there is need of seeds that can yield more with less water consumption. The water efficient improved wheat varieties namely NIAW 917, JW3020, COW(W)1, HS 490, VL892, MP3211 and HD2987 have been released.

Investment in agriculture sector

†2903. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to get four per cent annual growth rate in agriculture sector during Eleventh Five Year Plan, it was estimated that expenditure of Government on agriculture sector is required to be increased by 12 per cent annually from the level of 2006-07;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether investment was made in agriculture sector on this basis at Government level; and

(d) if so, the quantum of annual average investment increased at Government level from 2006-07 to 2009-10?

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