

#### **National Agriculture Insurance Scheme**

2900. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether suggestions like timely settlement of claims, smaller unit area of insurance, coverage of perennial crops etc., under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, have been received from time to time from different quarters; and

(b) if so, the procedure laid down to examine the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The suggestions with respect to reduction in unit area of insurance, increase in indemnity level, broad-basis of calculation of threshold yield, early settlement of claims, coverage of pre-sowing/planting risk etc. to strengthen the scheme were received from various quarters of farming community and States from time to time. All these suggestions were examined by the Joint Group constituted by the Government of India to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance schemes. A proposal on Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) incorporating improvements suggested by the Joint Group has been prepared by the Government.

#### **Production of superior quality pesticides by Indian companies**

2901. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian companies are providing superior quality of pesticides to farmers at reasonable prices in comparison to international companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that with the Indian companies coming up, those foreign companies misguided the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC) that is permitting import of pesticides without registering the technical pesticides; and

(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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.