

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The main features of National Agriculture Insurance Scheme are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A Joint Group was constituted by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to review and bring improvements in the existing Crop Insurance Schemes. The Group studied in-depth the related issues and made important recommendations regarding reduction in unit area of insurance, more precise calculation of threshold yield, higher indemnity levels, coverage of pre-sowing/planting risks and post-harvest losses etc. A proposal on Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) incorporating the major improvements suggested by the Joint Group has been prepared by the Government.

Statement

Main Features of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

- Scheme is available to all farmers — loanee and non-loanee — both irrespective of their size of holding.
- It covers yield losses due to natural and non-preventable risks.
- NAIS is an area based scheme. Implementing States notify any unit area of insurance *i.e.* district, tehsil, taluka/block, phirka, mandal, gram panchayat etc. keeping in view the capacity to undertake requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments for making assessment of yield.
- Compulsory for loanee farmers and optional for non-loanee farmers.
- The scheme is voluntary for the States/UTs.
- Sum-insured may extend to the value of threshold yield of the area insured.
- Coverage of all food crops (cereals, millets and pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which past yield data is available for adequate number of years.
- Premium rates are 3.5% for bajra and oilseeds, and 2.5% for other Kharif crops, 1.5 for wheat, and 2% for other rabi crops. In case the rates worked out on the basis of actuarial data are less than the prescribed premium rate, the lower rate will be applicable.
- In case of annual commercial/horticultural crops, actuarial rates are charged.
- Small and marginal farmers are provided subsidy of 10% of the premium.
- Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) is the implementing agency of the scheme.

Public investment in agriculture sector

3368. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether public investments in agriculture sector have declined during last three years in comparison to private investment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase public investments in agriculture in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Public and Private Investment in Agriculture and Allied Sector for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 at 2004-05 prices is as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Investment in Agriculture and Allied Sector		
	Public	Private	Total
2006-07	22978	71422	94400
2007-08	23040	86966	110006
2008-09	24452	114145	138597

Investment (both public and private) in this sector has steadily increased in the last three years.

(c) Government has launched several schemes to increase investments in agricultural sector and for accelerating agricultural growth. The major schemes are as follows:

- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana to incentivise the States to increase public investment in Agriculture sector.
- National Food Security Mission to promote improved production technologies like hybrids, System of Rice Intensification, resource conservation technologies, integrated nutrient, pest and weed management and usage of farm implements.
- Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed to develop and strengthen the existing infrastructure for the production and distribution of certified/quality seeds to farmers.
- National Horticulture Mission for holistic development of horticulture sector duly ensuring forward and backward linkages with the active participation of all the stakeholders.

Aquatic life in running fresh water

†3369. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.