

#### **Improper use of pesticides and insecticides**

576. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any assessment has been made by Government regarding losses incurred due to improper use of pesticides and insecticides;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government proposes to formulate any scheme to educate farmers about judicious use of pesticides and insecticides; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Judicious use of registered pesticides as per prescribed practices does not harm agricultural production.

(c) and (d) The Government is promoting safe and judicious use of pesticides by adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through a scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India". IPM programme under the scheme is implemented through 31 Central IPM Centres located in 28 States and one Union Territory.

#### **Pricing of Bt. Cotton seeds**

577. SHRI D. RAJA:  
SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some States like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have put restrictions on the pricing of Bt. Cotton seeds while there is no such restriction in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan; and
- (b) if so, whether Government has any proposal to evolve a mechanism common to all States to fix the price of Bt. Cotton seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) Out of the nine major cotton growing states only three viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra have sought to regulate Bt. Cotton prices within their states through Ordinances/Acts.

(b) There is no provisions in the Seeds Act 1966 for price regulation. Seed is an essential commodity in terms of Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 issued in exercise of powers available under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, but only for purposes of quality control and price regulation is not provided for. Further, there is no provision for price control in Seeds Bill, 2004.

#### **Agriculture in hilly areas**

†578. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that there is substantial difference between the agriculture in the plains and the agriculture in the hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has decided to formulate a new policy keeping in view the difficulties being faced in carrying out agricultural work in hilly areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is difference in agriculture between planes and hilly areas. The differences are in terms of topography, soil type and climatic conditions. Accordingly, requirement of varieties of field crops, horticulture crops, input use and other agro-technologies somewhat vary from the planes to the hilly areas.

(c) and (d) Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) has already established research institutions in hilly areas as well as in plane areas to cater to the needs of technology requirement of farmers of both the planes and the hilly areas. The Central Agriculture University located in Imphal (Manipur) and Vivekanand Parvatiya Krishi Anushandhan Sansthan, Almora (Uttarakhand) have exclusive mandate to develop suitable technology for improving agriculture in hilly areas. Many State Agriculture Universities whose jurisdictions fall in hilly areas have also developed suitable technologies. Separate varieties and production technologies have been recommended by Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Higher subsidy is given to the hilly areas under various Schemes of the Government of India. For instance, under the Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), the central assistance for the North Eastern States is 100% whereas for the remaining states, the assistance is in the ratio of 90:10 between the Centre and the States. Under Grameen Bhandaran Yojana, which is a Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Renovation of Rural Godowns, higher subsidy @ 33.33% is given to the North Eastern States/hilly areas.

For North Eastern States and hilly areas, the Government of India launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States in 2001-02 which was extended to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during 2003-04. This scheme has been renamed as "Horticulture Mission for North-East and Himalayan States" with effect from 2010-11, which provides higher subsidy than what is available under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in plane areas.

Under NHM also, enhanced assistance is being provided for taking up specific activities in the hilly areas of plane states such as creation of water resources, creation of post harvest management infrastructure etc. and market infrastructure such as wholesale, rural markets and retail markets.

In order to make timely availability of seeds at affordable prices to the farmers of hilly/remote areas of North Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and hilly areas of West Bengal, the Scheme of "Transport Subsidy on Movement of Seeds" is in operation.

**Inclusion of sericulture in RKVY**

579. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has decided to include sericulture and allied activities in the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the fact that National Commission for Agriculture and Reserve Bank of India have considered sericulture up to the stage of cocoon production as an agriculture activity, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has decided to include sericulture up to the stage of cocoon production along with extension system for cocoon production and silk yarn production in agri-enterprises up to the stage of yarn production and marketing to be eligible for funding under RKVY.

**Compensation to dependents of accident-victims at NFL unit**

†580. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some days back two engineers and one casual labourer were killed and one engineer got injured due to bursting of a pipe in Naya Nangal unit at National Fertilizers Limited (NFL);

(b) if so, the details of the compensation provided to the affected persons;

(c) whether Government is considering any plan to ensure that the dependents of these persons continue to get medical, education and residence facilities; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following compensation has been paid to the dependents of two deceased employees :

(in Rs.)		
Compensation on account of	Late Shri Deepak Chhabra, Manager (Mech.)	Late Shri Mohinder Singh, Shift Engineer (Prod.)-SG
1	2	3
Social Security Scheme	9,00,000	7,67,500

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