

Pension and family insurance schemes for farmers

3413. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of States in the country that have introduced pension and family insurance schemes for the farmers;
- (b) the essential features of these schemes; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to introduce a pension scheme for the small and marginal farmers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Ministry of Agriculture is not aware of any State specific and State funded pension and family insurance scheme introduced by any State of India for the farmers.

Government of India, for providing insurance benefit in case of death, has introduced Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana for rural landless households and Janashree Bima Yojana for persons Below Poverty Line (BPL) and marginally above poverty line and who are the members of the identified 45 occupational/vocational groups.

Government of India has launched the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) for BPL families in unorganized sector for providing health insurance to BPL families and Swalamban Yojana on contributory basis for unorganized sector workers to build up their pension wealth under New Pension Scheme.

All these schemes are also applicable to farmers satisfying the eligibility criterion of the respective scheme.

Many States implement these Government of India Schemes in their States.

Rain-fed Area Development Scheme

3414. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had decided to launch Rain-fed Area Development Scheme during 2007-08;
- (b) if so, the reasons for non-implementation of the Scheme so far; and

(c) by when the scheme is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) A new scheme entitled "Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP)" was announced in the Budget for the year 2007-08. In the meanwhile, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development launched the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), to converge all the watershed based interventions as per the Common Guidelines formulated by the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA). In addition, any other need based and location specific activities for rainfed areas can also be taken up under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Reforms in cooperative movement

3415. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted a High Powered Committee on Cooperatives; and

(b) if so, whether the recommendations of the committee have been implemented for various reforms in the cooperative movement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes Sir. The Government had constituted a High Powered Committee on Cooperatives under the chairmanship of Shri S.G. Patil in May, 2005. This Committee submitted their report in May, 2009.

(b) In order to implement principal recommendations of the Committee, Constitution (One Hundred and Eleventh Amendment) Bill, 2009 and Amendments to Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 have been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 30.11.2009 and 15.11.2010 respectively.

Special category status for Rajasthan

3416. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan is the largest drought prone desert State of the country having 10.40 per cent area, 5.40 per cent population, 18.70 per cent live stock, 1040 km. international border with Pakistan, hilly terrain populated by poor Adiwasis, but has only 1.16 per cent surface water and 1.72