

**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