

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan to introduce a peasant-friendly crop insurance to protect the coconut growers;

(c) whether Government will consider a proposal to declare remunerative price for coconut and create adequate marketing mechanism to ensure this price to the coconut growers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) To protect the coconut growers, Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) is under implementation since December, 2009. This scheme is being implemented on pilot basis in selected districts in the states of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Goa, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

This scheme is applicable to all healthy nut-bearing coconut palms, grown as mono or intercropped, on bunds farms or homestead and to all varieties of coconut, having age of 4-60 years (tall variety age range 7-60 years), excluding unhealthy and senile palms, to be insured through Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd (AIC). Insured sum vary from Rs.600 per palm (for 4th - 15th year age group) to Rs.1150 per palm (for 16th to 60th year age group). Fifty percent of premium subsidy amount is borne by CDB (Central Government), 25% by participating state and 25% by the beneficiary.

(c) and (d) Government of India regularly announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for both milling and edible grade ball copra and also for de-husked coconut sufficiently in advance to the procurement season. For the year 2011, the Govt. of India has fixed MSP at Rs.4525/- per quintal for FAQ grade milling copra and Rs.4775/- per quintal for edible ball copra. The MSP for raw coconut is fixed at Rs.12/- per Kg.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) is the Central Nodal Agency for undertaking procurement of oilseeds, including milling/ball copra & de-husked coconut under Price Support Scheme (PSS) at the MSP declared by the Government of India. Procurement is also undertaken through State Government agencies notified by the respective State Governments.

Production techniques for small land holdings

†940. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the land in agriculture sector have small holdings;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the percentage of small holdings in the total agricultural lands in the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to small land holdings we have to develop our own separate production techniques; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the latest Agriculture Census 2005-06, small holdings (operated area below 2.0 hectares) constitute 83.29 percent of total holding with 41.14 percent of operated area.

(c) and (d) A large number of equipment and technologies including hand tools, animal drawn equipment and power operated implements and machinery have been developed by Agricultural Engineering Research Institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), keeping in view the predominance of small farm holdings in the country.

Suicide by farmers

†941. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers still commit suicide due to the fact that agriculture is non-profitable;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the news of those incidents are coming from such States which are considered advanced in agriculture; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such steps being taken by farmers and speedy redressal measures being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (d) Incidents of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons were reported during 2009 and 2010 by Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala and Punjab.

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