

NDP-I will be implemented in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Kerala. Coverage of NDP-I will, however, be across the country in terms of benefits accruing from the scheme.

Mini-kit seeds programme

4675. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to implement mini-kit seeds programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to provide such mini-kit seeds free of cost to farmers living below the poverty line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Government of India is already implementing seed minikits programme under various schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture. In order to introduce new, varieties/hybrids and to encourage farmers for seed multiplication of various crops at grass root level, Government of India provides seed minikits of different field crops and fodder crops to the farmers. The seed minikits of oilseeds and maize are provided under Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM). Also, Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) provide support for crop development including supply of seeds minikits as per priorities of the States in their work plan.

(c) and (d) The Government of India provides seed minikits to all farmers including those living below poverty line free of cost under various schemes viz; ISOPOM, Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millet Promotion (INSMP) programme under RKVY, Fodder & Feed Development Scheme and Central Minikit Testing Programme on fodder crops.

Pesticide residue in eatables

4676. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formed an expert committee to frame a policy to check pesticide residues in eatables such as fruits and vegetables;

(b) whether the committee has been asked to frame a policy for conducting periodic checks to detect pesticide residues; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In pursuance to High Court of Delhi Order dated 23rd February, 2012 in Writ Petition No. (C) No. 7495/2010 Court on its own motion versus Union of India, a Committee comprising of technical persons was constituted on 15th March, 2012 for framing a policy for periodic check to detect pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables. The matter is subjudice and the composition of the full Committee will be finalized on the basis of further directions of the Hon'ble High Court.

Launch of multi disciplinary research project 'AICHA'

4677. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-French Centre for promotion of Advanced Research has launched a multi-disciplinary research project titled Adaptation of Irrigated Agriculture to Climate Change (AICHA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the study aims at developing an integrated model for analyzing the impact of climate change on ground water-irrigated agriculture in the country; and

(d) if so, whether the study group has selected any area for field study under the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir. The bilateral Indo-French Centre for promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR) has approved a project titled 'Adaptation of irrigated Agriculture to Climate Change'.

(b) This is a joint project between Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India and Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, France and was approved by the Scientific Council of IFCPAR in its 48th meeting in November, 2011.

(c) The project proposes a multidisciplinary approach, involving hydrology, agronomy and socio-economics for studying the impact of climate change on cropping systems and water resources in the context groundwater irrigated