

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by Govt, of Tamil Nadu, cultivation of Bt. Cotton is picking up in the State. The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in the Ministry of Environment & Forests have notified certain Bt. Cotton hybrids for commercial cultivation after assessing the performance through various multi location and large scale field trials. The area covered under the Bt. Cotton is less compared to the other cotton varieties. No reports on failure has been received so far.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

NAFED Loan

†1073. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

DR. MURU MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India is functional in the country;

(b) if so, the main responsibility entrusted to the said Federation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said Federation has also provided loan in the past;

(d) if so, the amount disbursed as loan from 2000 to the end of 2004; and

(e) the income earned annually through disbursing loan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Suicided in Maharashtra

1074. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers suicide toll has risen to 100 in Vidarbha;

(b) if so, the details thereof since 2003-04 and the measures taken by the Central Government to reassure farmers;

(c) the details of study, if any, conducted and its outcome;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.