

(b) if so, how does this affects the production, availability for indigenous use, as well as the export rate of the crop; and

(c) how has this impacted the lives of farmers engaged in guar cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The United States is the largest consumer of guar gum representing 25% of world trade. India exported 3,25,904 MT of Guar during the year 2010-11, out of which major export of 2,05,894 MT was to United States amounting to Rs. 1,68,594 lacs (*Source: www.agriexchange.apeda.gov.in*).

Production of Guar is mainly concentrated in the arid region of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana and some part of Punjab. Rajasthan contributes more than 70% of Guar production. Normal production of Guar in India is 13,09,140 tonnes from normal area of 33,24,780 hectares.

The price of Guar has substantially increased during the last one year. Increase in prices of the crop has resulted in increase of area with increased production. The enhanced production has provided raw material both for the indigenous use as well as for the export. Being a leguminous crop, guar enriches the soil health and benefits the other crops in the rotation. Therefore, the farmers are cultivating this crop, which is a profitable proposition.

Price to farmers for their produce

2968. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers in the country including Karnataka are not getting adequate price for their produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to provide assistance to farmers including that of Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Government ensures Minimum Support Price (MSP) through procurement operations undertaken by the Central, State and cooperative agencies in the States, including Karnataka.

State Governments have been alerted from time to time to ensure MSP to farmers.

(c) and (d) To encourage local procurement to the maximum extent thereby extending the benefits of MSP to local farmers Government is implementing Decentralised Procurement of foodgrains. Under the decentralized procurement scheme, the State Government itself undertakes direct purchase of paddy and wheat and

procurement of levy rice on behalf of Government of India. Purchase centres are opened by the State Governments and their agencies as per their requirements. The State Governments procure, store and distribute foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS) and other welfare schemes. The State/UT Governments presently undertaking Decentralised Procurement are West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka and Kerala.

In addition, Government is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Price Support Scheme. The MIS is implemented on the request of State/UT Government in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the cost of production.

Losses due to use of Bt. Cotton

2969. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that farmers of Vidarbha are losing ₹ 2,000 crores annually due to use of Bt. Cotton thereby increasing the suicides;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that during Kharif 2011, 33.17 lakh acres of 47 lakh acres planted with Bt. Cotton in Andhra Pradesh suffered from crop failure;
- (c) if so, whether the Ministry is planning to revisit the whole issue of using Bt. Cotton again; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to the drought situation prevailing during Kharif 2011 in Andhra Pradesh, 33.34 lakh acres out of 50.63 lakh acres suffered crop failure.

- (c) There is no such proposal with Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.
- (d) In view of (c), does not arise.

Implementation of schemes for welfare of farmers

2970. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes initiated by the Ministry for welfare of farmers during the current year;