

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;