

**Availability of Bt. cotton seeds**

1414. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Bt. cotton seeds are not available in the market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the constructive measures being evolved to make Bt. cotton seeds available to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir. Adequate quantity of Bt. cotton seeds is available in the country.

- (b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) States have evolved a series of measures to ensure that Bt. Cotton seeds are made available to the farmers on time. Some of these measures include holding of prior meetings with Bt. Cotton seed producing companies to fix district wise and company wise availability of Bt. Cotton seed packets well in advance of the sowing season. As a follow up to this, meetings are held with Bt. Cotton seed companies to monitor the dispatch of seeds. Some States depute Seed Inspectors or constitute district level Monitoring Committees to monitor dispatch, distribution and sale of Bt. Cotton seeds. Setting up of control rooms, meeting with farmers' representatives to redress grievances relating to cotton seed movement and creating awareness through pamphlets are some of the other constructive measures employed by States.

**Nutrient based subsidy to farmers**

1415. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has done any study about the impact of nutrient based subsidy to farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) how many farmers are to be given this subsidy directly;