

(a) whether Government has any plan to provide subsidy on diesel and fertilizers to the farmers of the country, keeping in view the low rainfall throughout the country; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) In view of deficit rainfall in various parts of the country, it has been decided to provide diesel subsidy to the farmers to provide supplementary/protective irrigation through diesel pumpsets for saving standing crops. The scheme is applicable in (i) the districts with rainfall deficit more than 50% as on 15th July, 2012; (ii) talukas/districts which have been declared as drought affected areas by the respective State Governments/UTs and (iii) areas with prolonged dry spell continuously for 15 days, *i.e.* scanty rainfall (deficit more than 60% of normal) for any continuous 15 days period as per reports of IMD. Under this scheme, 50% of the cost of diesel for supplementary and protective irrigation will be provided as financial assistance to farmers, limited to 2 ha per farmer, which will be equally shared by Government of India (GOI) and respective State Government/Union Territory. GOI's contribution will be capped at Rs.750 per ha.

Government has been providing subsidy on urea and 23 grades of Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers to the farmers.

Contingency plan to tackle drought like situation

2180. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared a contingency plan to tackle drought-like situation in the country;

(b) whether Government is taking steps to provide subsidised seeds and free power to farmers, restructure their farm loans and waiver of interest on them, besides roll back the hike in fertilizer prices and compensate financial losses of States due to drought;

(c) whether Government has evolved/found a permanent solution to farmers' woes through farm insurance scheme, river linking and reviving water bodies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has prepared Contingency plans for 353 districts across the country for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production.

{b) Subsidy on seeds has been enhanced to partially recompense the farmers for the expenditure in re-sowing and/or purchasing drought tolerant variety of seeds. In view of deficient rainfall, States such as Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh have been allocated with additional power from Central Pool.

Reserve Bank of India issued standing guidelines to banks for providing relief to the farmers in areas affected by natural calamities including drought. These guidelines have been issued to enable the banks to take uniform and concerted action expeditiously, particularly to provide the financial assistance to the farmers affected by natural calamities. These guidelines *inter-alia* envisage the following:

- Conversion/re-scheduling of loans in the event of natural calamity for periods ranging from 3 to 9 years depending upon the successive crop failure/intensity of damage of crops.
- Grant of fresh crop loans to affected farmers
- Conversion of principal as well as interest due on the existing loans
- Grant of consumption loans
- Not to compound interest of loans converted/rescheduled etc.
- Not to charge penal interest in respect of current dues in default.

In so far as fertilizer prices is concerned, Urea is provided at a fixed Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of Rs. 5310 per metric ton since 01.04.2010. Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy is being implemented on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers under which a fixed subsidy is provided based on its nutrient content. MRP is fixed by fertilizer companies. The prices of P&K fertilizers have increased mainly due to increase in international prices of fertilizers and due to depreciation of Indian rupee. However, Government provides subsidy to the extent of 50% to 67% of the delivered cost on these fertilizers.

(c) and (d) To protect the yield losses to standing crops of the farmers due to non-preventable causes including natural calamities and adverse weather conditions, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has been implementing 4 schemes namely (1) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS); (2) Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS); (3) Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and (4) Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS). The details of these Schemes are given in Statement-I. (*See below*).

National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 river linking projects for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Status of Water Transfer Links identified for preparation of FRs by NWDA is given in Statement-II. (*See below*).

Ministry of Water Resources under its schemes "Project for Repair, Renovation

and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies" has taken up 14228 water bodies for restoration.

Statement-I

Schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture

1. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS):

With a view to provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop in the notified areas as a result of natural calamities, pests and diseases; to encourage the farmers to adopt progressive farming practices, high value in-puts and higher technology in agriculture and to stabilize farm incomes, particularly in disaster years, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) was introduced in the country from Rabi 1999-2000 season-in place of erstwhile Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS). The scheme is available to all the farmers - loanee and non-loanee - irrespective of their size of holding. Loanee farmers are covered on compulsory basis in a notified area for notified crops whereas for non-loanee farmers scheme is voluntary.

The Scheme envisages coverage of all the food crops (cereals, millets and pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops, in respect of which past yield data is available for adequate number of years. The premium rates are ranging between 1.5% and 3.5% per cent (of sum insured) for food and oilseed crops (for normal sum insured and indemnity level). In the case of commercial/horticultural crops and higher sum insured and indemnity than that of normal, actuarial rates are being charged. Under the scheme, at present, 10% subsidy in premium is available to small and marginal farmers.

It is a yield guarantee scheme operating on "Area approach" basis. The implementing States/UTs can notify any unit area of insurance *i.e.* block, mandal, tehsil, circle, phirka, gram panchayat etc. keeping in view the availability of past yield data and capacity of the State to undertake requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs). The State Government/UT Administration is required to notify areas/crops well in advance of the each crop season and issue the necessary notification/instructions to all financial institutions provide past yield data and also conduct the required number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) in each notified areas for assessment of crop loss.

If the actual average yield per hectare of the insured crop for the defined area (on the basis of requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments) in the insured season, falls short of specified Threshold yield, all the insured farmers growing that crop in the defined area are deemed to have suffered shortfall in their yield and the scheme provides coverage against such contingency.

2. Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS):

To improve further and make the scheme easier and more farmer friendly, a Joint Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance schemes. Based on the recommendations of the Joint Group and views/comments of various stake-holders, Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) was approved by Government of India for implementation on pilot basis in 50 districts during the remaining period of Eleventh five year plan from Rabi 2010-11 season. The salient features of MNAIS are - actuarial premium with subsidy in premium ranging- upto 75% to all farmers, only upfront premium subsidy is shared by the Central and State Governments on 50 : 50 basis and all claims liability would be on the insurance companies, unit area of insurance reduced to Village/village panchayat level for major crops, indemnity for prevented sowing/planting risk and for post harvest losses due to cyclone (coastal areas), on account payment upto 25% advance of likely claims as immediate relief, more proficient basis for calculation of threshold yield, minimum indemnity level of 70% instead of 60%, scheme is available to all the farmers - loanee and non-loanee - irrespective of their size of holding, loanee farmers are covered on compulsory basis in a notified area for notified crops whereas for non-loanee farmers scheme is voluntary as in NAIS, uniform seasonality disciplines both for loanee and non-loanee farmers, participation of private sector insurers for creation of competitive environment for crop insurance.

3. Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS):

The efforts have been made to bring more farmers under the fold of Crop Insurance by introducing a Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) as announced in the Union Budget 2007, in selected areas from kharif 2007 season. WBCIS is intended to provide insurance protection to the farmers against adverse weather incidence, such as deficit and excess rainfall, high or low temperature, humidity etc. which are deemed to impact adversely the crop production. It has the advantage to settle the claims within shortest possible time. The WBCIS is based on actuarial rates of premium but to make the scheme attractive, premium actually charged from farmers have been restricted to at par with NAIS. Under the scheme of WBCIS subsidy ranging upto 50% is available to all farmers.

4. Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS):

The Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) has also been approved for implementation on pilot basis from years 2009-10 in the selected areas of Andhra

Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The Sum Insured (SI) is based on the average input cost of the plantation and the age of the specific plant. The SI varies from Rs. 600 per palm (in the age group of 4-15 years) to Rs. 1150 per palm (in the age group of 16-60 years). The premium rate per palm ranges from Rs. 4.25 (in the age group of 4 to 15 years) to Rs. 5.75 (in the age group of 16 to 60 years). Fifty per cent of premium is contributed by GOI; 25% by the concerned State Government and the remaining 25% by the farmer

For carrying out implementation of the above schemes excluding CPIS, funds are provided by the Central and the concerned State Governments on equal basis and 50:25 for CPIS.

Statement-II

*Status of water transfer links identified for preparation of
Feasibility Reports (FR) by NWDA*

Peninsular Rivers Development Component

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link | -FR completed |
| 2. Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishana (Vijayawada) link* | -FR completed
(Taken up by the State as per their own proposal) |
| 3. Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Pulichintala) link | -FR completed |
| 4. Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link | -FR completed |
| 5. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link | -FR completed |
| 6. Krishna (Srisailam) - Pennar link | -FR completed |
| 7. Krishna (Almatti) - Pennar link | -FR completed |
| 8. Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link | -FR completed |
| 9. Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai - Gundar link | -FR completed |
| 10. Parbati - Kalisindh - Chambal link* | -FR completed |
| 11. Damanganga - Pinjal link* | -FR completed and
DPR started |
| 12. Par - Tapi - Narmada link* | -FR completed and
DPR started |
| 13. Ken - Betwa link* | -DPR (Phase-I)
completed |

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|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 14. Pamba - Achankovil - Vaippar link | -FR completed |
| 15. Netravati - Hemavati link | -PFR completed |
| 16. Bedti - Varda link | -FR taken up |

Himalayan Rivers Development Component

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Kosi - Mechi link | -Entirely lies in Nepal |
| 2. Kosi - Ghaghra link | -S&I works taken up |
| 3. Gandak - Ganga link | -S&I works taken up |
| 4. Ghaghra - Yamuna link | -FR completed (for Indian portion) |
| 5. Sarda - Yamuna link | -FR completed (for Indian portion) |
| 6. Yamuna - Rajasthan link | -S&I works completed |
| 7. Rajasthan - Sabarmati link | -S&I works completed |
| 8. Chunar (at Ganga) - Sone Barrage link | -S&I works completed |
| 9. Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link | -S&I works taken up |
| 10. Manas - Sankosh - Tista - Ganga (M-S-T-G) link | -S&I works taken up |
| 11. Jogighopa (at Brahmaputra) - Tista - Ganga at Farakka (Alternate to M-S-T-G) link | -S&I works taken up |
| 12. Ganga (Farakka) - Sunderbans link | -S&I works completed |
| 13. Ganga - Damodar - Subernarekha link | -S&I works completed |
| 14. Subernarekha - Mahanadi link | -S&I works completed |

* Priority links

PFR - Pre-Feasibility Report; FR - Feasibility Report; DPR - Detailed Project Report

S&I - Survey and Investigation in Indian portion.

Incentive to increase production of pulses

2181. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the existing gap between demand and supply of pulses;
- (b) the acres of land under cultivation for pulses in the country and whether there has been no increase in the area of land under cultivation of pulses; and