

by Bt. Cotton farmers. However, US-based film maker Shri Micha Peled has produced a documentary film titled "Bitter Seeds".

(d) The Government lays maximum emphasis in assessing and minimizing the problems being faced by the farmers in cultivation of Crops. The Scientists of State Agriculture Universities, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Officials of the States Directorate of Agriculture constantly interact with the farmers to assess their problems and take appropriate steps/develop technologies to reduce their miseries/tragedies, if any.

Cultivation of Bt. Cotton has resulted in increase in income of the farmers and in improving their standard of living. The yield of cotton has increased from 190 kg lint per ha to 491 kg lint per ha. Area under Bt. Cotton has increased by more than 90% of the total cotton area in the country. Reasons for suicide by farmers as reported by the State Governments, are manifold which, *inter-alia* includes indebtedness, socio-economic and personal reasons, crop failure and drought. There seems to be no evidence of direct relationship between Bt. Cotton and farmers' suicides.

#### **Loan to small farmers**

†193. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of loan expended to farmers by the banks for farming during the years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of total loan extended to the farmers, 94 per cent loan was given to big farmers whereas marginal farmers received only 6 per cent of it;

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to formulate such a policy wherein 70 per cent loan is given to marginal farmers and 30 per cent loan to the big farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) The agriculture credit flow during the year 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 was Rs. 3,84,514 crore, Rs.4,68,291 crore and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rs. 5,11,029 crore respectively. During this period credit flow to small and marginal farmers was Rs. 1,22,654 crore, Rs. 1,67,739 crore and Rs. 2,27,835 crore respectively which is 32%, 36% and 45% of the total loan disbursed to the farmers during these years.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken several measures to improve credit flow to small and marginal farmers. These measures, *inter-alia*, includes fixation of annual targets for improving agricultural credit flow, provision of crop loans upto Rs. 3.00 lakh @ 4% per annum to such farmers who repay their loan as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, extension of benefit of interest subvention scheme to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period upto six months for storing their produce in warehouses against negotiable warehouse receipts, collateral free loan upto Rs. 1.00 lakh, implementation of revival package for short term cooperative credit structure in the country etc.

#### **Price difference between generic and branded medicines**

194. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a big difference in prices of generic medicines and the same branded medicines;

(b) if so, the details of the prices of important medicines in both these categories; and

(c) the measures being taken to ensure sufficient supply of generic medicines, manufactured by reputed companies to the common people and ensure that the doctors prescribe the medicines in generic names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The prices of generic medicines sold in the open market are generally at par with the prices of the branded medicines. However, there is a big difference in the prices of generic medicines sold through the Jan Aushadhi Drug stores *vis-a-vis* the prices of the branded medicines, as would be observed from the following illustration:-