

(g) Re-introduction of cotton seeds under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is only to regulate production, supply, distribution and quality of cotton seeds and not to regulate the prices of cotton seeds.

(h) There is no such proposal before the Government at present.

**Introduction of new policy for farmers**

4034. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce a new policy for farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether small and marginal farmers are likely to get special benefits under the new policy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

**Drought assistance to Kerala**

4035. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has noticed the severe drought situation in Kerala;
- (b) whether State Government of Kerala has made any request to Union Government for a special drought assistance, considering the huge agrarian crisis caused due to severe drought in the State; and
- (c) if so, the details of action taken by Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) During Kharif-2012, Government of Kerala had declared drought in 4 districts and submitted a memorandum seeking financial assistance of Rs. 1996.07 crore. Based on the assessment of Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) and recommendation of Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), Government of India has approved a central assistance of Rs. 62.61 crore to Kerala from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for mitigating the situation.