

Registration of seed companies on false claims

4063. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether seed companies in Andhra Pradesh are registering their seeds by falsely claiming before State Seed Registration Authority informing that seeds have been produced after carrying out extensive farming in hundreds of acres and are selling the same to farmers;

(b) whether indulgence of three seed companies in unscrupulous practices in Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh have come to light; and

(c) if so, the action Government has taken against these companies to protect the interest of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that no seed companies have been registered in Andhra Pradesh on false claims. Moreover, under the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983, the State Government is empowered to check the unscrupulous practices if any, by the seed companies in supply of certified/quality seeds to the farmers.

Weather based crop insurance

4064. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for weather based crop insurance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the number of subscribers to any weather based crop insurance policy and the number of insurance claims;

(d) whether Government is proposing any measures to mitigate the effects of weather variations in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to provide insurance

coverage and financial support to farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of adverse weather conditions, a Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) is under implementation from Kharif 2007 on pilot basis. WBCIS was initially approved to implement in 3 States and further extended in more States. It was approved to implement in 20 States from Rabi 2008-09. State of Jammu and Kashmir has also been allowed from Rabi 2010-11.

It provides insurance protection to the farmers against adverse weather incidence, such as deficit/excess rainfall, un-seasonal rainfall, low/high temperature, frost, relative humidity etc. which are deemed to impact adversely the crop production. It has the advantages to minimize moral hazards; lowering of administrative costs; speedy settlement of claims etc. All farmers both, loanee and non-loanee in the notified area/crop are eligible for coverage under the pilot. However, insurance is compulsory for loanee and optional for non-loanee farmers.

(c) During the period of the last eleven crop seasons *i.e.* from Kharif 2007 to Kharif 2012, 3.25 crore farmers have been covered and out of them 1.92 farmers have been paid claims.

(d) and (e) The WBCIS provides support to the farmers in the event of major weather variations.

Safety shortcomings highlighted by CAG

4065. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effective steps have been taken regarding upgrading safety measures, as many shortcomings were highlighted in the CAG's Report laid in the Parliament during August, 2012;

(b) if so, whether significant improvements have been made during the last eight months to address CAG's apprehensions like underutilization of safety fund, age-old locomotives, lack of safety drives, etc.;

(c) how much allocation of funds for safety measures were made during 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12; and

(d) whether these were fully utilized or remained underutilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) CAG's Report highlighting shortcomings regarding