Other States have reported nil information.

Compensation to farmers of Vidarbha

3414. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farmers of Vidarbha have not received compensatory fund for the loss of crops for the year 2011-12;
 - (b) if so, the extent of amount still pending; and
 - (c) by when, the amount will be paid to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) During Rabi- 2011-12, Government of Maharashtra declared drought in 15 districts including 5 districts of Vidarbha region *viz.* Nagpur,

Gondia, Gadchiroli, Amravati and Buldhana. Based on the recommendations of the Inter Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) that visited the State for assessment of crop loss. Central Government had approved Rs.574.71 crore from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to Government of Maharashtra for mitigating drought situation. This amount was fully released to the State.

Talk on agricultural issues with former P.M. of New Zealand

3415. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether former Prime Minister of New Zealand visited Hyderabad and held talks with State Government officials on technology to be adopted by small and marginal farmers, water management, strengthening of co-operative societies, crops to be adopted in the rainfed areas and other issues; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. James B. Bolger visited Hyderabad in November last year, in the capacity of Chairman, Advisory Board, World Agriculture Form scheduled to be organized on 4th to 7th November, 2013 at Hyderabad.

(b) In his address to the State Agricultural Ministers, in the Conference held on 24.11.2012, he emphasized importance of agriculture sector in fighting the challenge of hunger facing developing countries. To increase production and productivity he discussed the increasing role of science and technology, investment in research for better seed, fertilizer, better infrastructure, improving management of co-operatives to improve the future of the smaller and marginal farmers, role of gender in agriculture sector etc. He also outlined the role of trade policy, International Trade Policy and WTO to have fair-trade environment.

Co-ordination among agricultural universities

3416. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: