

(b) whether there are reports of non-availability of quality seeds in several States of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for shortage of good quality seeds; and

(d) the role played by Krishi Vigyan Kendras in enlightening farmers for getting quality seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) : (a) Farmers can get quality seeds from the sales depots of National Seeds Corporation Ltd. State Farms Corporation of India Ltd., State Agricultural Universities, State Seeds Corporations in the public sector and from the authorized sale depots of private seed producing organisations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The following activities are carried out by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in enlightening the farmers in getting quality seeds :

- (i) Providing the farmers with sources and availability of quality seeds and importance of use of quality seeds.
- (ii) Providing technical knowhow on quality seed production.
- (iii) Capacity building of farmers in technical skills for quality seed production.
- (iv) Popularise new improved varieties of different crops by Front line Demonstration on farmers field.
- (vi) Encouraging the farmers participation in participatory seed production programmes.
- (vi) Production of quality seeds and planting materials on KVK farms for distribution to the farming community.

Increase in agricultural wage rate

3428. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP) has

pointed that the agricultural age rate has recorded a perceptible increase from 2006-07 onwards:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to reduce its impact on the overall inflationary conditions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) : (a) and (b) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has pointed out that during 2008 to 2011, the increase in wage rate in second half of 2011 over that of 2008 has been estimated at 74 per cent at all India level; with states recording the highest wage being Odisha at 101.56 per cent, Tamil Nadu at 93.64 per cent, Maharashtra at 93.54 per cent, Andhra Pradesh at 88.00 per cent, Punjab at 75.36 per cent

(c) Several schemes have been launched by the Ministry of Agriculture to increase production and productivity in agriculture to increase of the supply of agricultural commodities in order to meet the rising demand for food and agricultural commodities. Important programmes implemented in agriculture sector include National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Grameen Bhandaran Yojana, Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Micro Irrigation, Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM).

Market intelligence to farmers

3429. DR. V. MAITREYAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides market intelligence to farmers to help them get remunerative prices for their agricultural produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Marketing Research and Information Network (MRIN) Scheme 'AGMARKNET' provides computer connectivity to all important wholesale markets in the country and to the central portal; and