

During Twelfth Plan, research on Hybrid Rice is being strengthened by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through a special consortia research project on hybrid crops.

**Supply of fake Bt. cotton seeds**

963. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Government is aware that Bt. cotton farmers in Karnataka suffered huge loss due to fake seeds;
- (b) if so, whether Government has received any report in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has taken any steps to help the affected farmers and punish the culprit; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (e) The Karnataka Government has reported about supply of fake seeds of Bt. cotton varieties viz., Kanaka, Niki Plus and Jackpot in the districts of Belgaum, Haveri, Chitradurga, Davangere, Dharwad, Bellary and Gadag in 2013-14. The State Government constituted a field inspection team with the scientists of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad to investigate the matter. The Team reported that compared to other Bt. cotton varieties, these Bt. cotton varieties are found to be more susceptible to infestation of mind bug and midge fly. Joint Survey teams have been constituted by the State Government to assess the extent of crop damage for relief to the farmers.

**Fishermen Welfare Fund**

964. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of Fishermen Welfare Fund;