

and margin norms etc. The moment calamity is declared by the concerned District Authorities, these guidelines automatically set in motion without any intervention to save precious time.

MSP of wheat

1419. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has increased MSP of wheat by ₹ 50/- per quintal only for rabi season, 2014-15, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the increased MSP is not in conformity with the cost of production, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would review its decision and increase the MSP of rabi crops particularly wheat, in view of the above and large scale suicide by farmers in recent years, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat for 2014-15 has been increased by ₹ 50 per quintal over its MSP for 2013-14 and fixed at ₹ 1450 per quintal. The MSP of wheat for 2014-15 at ₹ 1450 per quintal provides adequate margin against all India weighted average cost of production including family labour (A2+FL) of ₹ 744 per quintal estimated by Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACCP).

(c) According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) causes of suicides include, *inter-alia*, family problems, illness, drug abuse/addiction, unemployment, property dispute, cancellation/non-settlement of marriage, dowry dispute etc. while reasons for suicide as reported by State Governments include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons.

Forest based traditional farming

†1420. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether it is a fact that more nutritious food grains can be procured from forest-based traditional farming as compared to chemical farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the plan being implemented by Government to promote forest-based traditional farming at present and the achievement of these programmes in the last three years; and
- (d) the details of the action plan and target set by the Central Government for the next five years to promote forest-based traditional farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) to (d) The forest and tree based traditional farming systems generally yield nutritionally rich products due to higher uptake and recycling of nutrients. For example tuber crops such as elephant foot yam, colocassia, tapioca, diascoria, sweet potato etc., spices such as ginger, turmeric, bay leaves, black pepper, large cardamom etc., vegetables like chow chow fruits like shiong (*Prunus nepalensis*), peach, pineapple etc. grown in forest based farming systems are nutritionally better as compared to the produce from chemical farming. The Government is promoting tree based farming system through agroforestry, integrated farming system approach and motivating farmers to plant trees on farm boundaries. A national agroforestry policy also has been enunciated during 2014.

Development of aquaculture in Odisha

1421. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government will instruct the State Government of Odisha to allow water logged areas up to 100 hectare to an individual or progressive farmer to take on a minimum of 10 years lease for developing aquaculture pond, which will result in quantum jump in fish production as they will produce 10 tons per hectare against an average production of 2.5 tons per hectare by small farmers; and
- (b) whether individual farmers or groups or companies purchase 100 hectare of land for aquaculture relaxing the existing land ceiling of 10 hectare per individual?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture is not contemplating any such directives to the Government of Odisha.