

on risk involved, are being charged. These premium rates vary from crop to crop, area to area and from season to season. While bringing improvement in crop insurance schemes is a continuous process, there is no proposal at present to revise the premium rates under Crop Insurance Schemes. However, to make the scheme affordable for farmers, premium subsidy upto 75% of premium is provided by the Government.

(b) National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) provides for capacity building of officials/farmers' groups through specialized trainings, workshops, publicity/awareness, etc. The Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad, Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC), etc. Conduct periodical workshops/sensitization programmes on crop insurance. State Governments and insurance companies also publicize crop insurance through advertisements, conferences, kisan goshtis, fairs, etc.

(c) The response of farmers towards crop insurance schemes is relatively good in the State of Maharashtra. Since 1999-2000, more than 421 lakh farmers have been covered in the State under crop insurance schemes.

#### **Implementation of National Agriculture Income Insurance Scheme**

145. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to launch a new National Agriculture Income Insurance Scheme, if so, the salient features and components of the scheme; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for early implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to better serve the interest of farmers, Government is desirous to develop a new crop insurance scheme to protect them against both yield and price fluctuations. The contours of the proposed scheme have been discussed with State Governments, UT Administrations and other stakeholders. The scheme is under finalization.

#### **Shortage of cold storages**

146. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of fruits and vegetables wasted due to lack of adequate cold storage facilities during the last three years, State-wise;