

Market through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund” (ATIF) with the major objectives to increase farmers’ income and incidental benefit of moderating price rise. The Scheme is to be implemented with a budgetary outlay of ₹ 200.00 crores in three phases during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. Under the Scheme, an appropriate common e-market platform would be deployed in 585 selected regulated wholesale markets in States across the country and Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) will meet expenses on software and its customization for the States. In addition, DAC will also give grant as one time fixed cost subject to the ceiling of ₹ 30.00 lakhs per mandi for related hardware including equipment/infrastructure for above mandis.

The implementation of the Scheme is subject to the States’ willingness to link their mandis with the common e-market platform. The desirous States will, however, have to ensure three pre requisites in their Agri Marketing Laws as under:

- (i) Provision for Unified single license for traders valid across the State;
- (ii) Single point levy of market fee; and
- (iii) Provision for electronic auction as a mode for price discovery.

Such provisions, specially the provision for unified single license for traders which is valid across the State will promote participation by a large number of traders on the on-line platform thereby curbing monopolistic practices. This along with greater transparency and efficiency in market operations including bidding process and better price discovery will be to the overall benefit of farmers.

Effect of adverse climate on agriculture

†527. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in the country selected by Government for providing assistance to those farmers who are facing the adverse climatic conditions like drought, flood and depleting water level, the details thereof;

(b) the number of districts selected in Bihar along with the details of Schemes formulated for these districts; and

(c) whether Government would conduct any study to assess the effect of climate on agriculture in these districts, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) Government of India is providing technical assistance to the District/State officials in terms of drought

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

preparedness, action plans and real time implementation of various technical interventions for coping with adverse climate conditions like drought, flood and conserving water resources. These technical measures will help various sectors of agriculture in 600 districts of the country in the event of any weather aberrations.

(b) Under ICAR-NICRA, nine districts were selected to demonstrate various climate resilient interventions to cope different weather aberrations such as drought, flood, cyclone, etc.

Studies have been undertaken to assess the vulnerability of districts in Bihar for various climate extremes and vulnerability indexes have been developed.

(c) Technology demonstration component of ICAR-NICRA is developing climate resilient model villages by implementing various technologies in seven districts *viz.*, Saran, Supaul, Buxur, Nawada, Aurangabad, Jehanabad and Banka. The contingency plans are made available to cope with various weather aberrations such as drought, floods, heat wave, cold wave, frost, hailstorm to minimize the impacts of climate on agriculture and allied sectors for all the districts of Bihar. The technical assistance is being provided to the State line departments for operationalization of contingency plans in the State.

Demand and supply of fertilizers

528. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the demand and supply of fertilizers during the last one year, item-wise;

(b) whether there is a huge gap between demand and supply of fertilizers, thereby affecting the productivity of agriculture; and

(c) the measures Government has taken or proposes to take to cut down this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) During the year 2014-15 the cumulative requirement, availability and sales of fertilizers is given below:

(Figures in LMT)

Year	Urea			P and K (DAP, MOP and NPK)		
	Projected Requirement	Availability	Sales	Projected Requirement	Availability	Sales
2014-15	306.70	310.42	308.74	226.00	199.10	189.35