

(c) and (d) The financial assistance from SDRF/NDRF is providing immediate relief and is not compensation for loss/damage to crops. Crop insurance is a financial tool to insure farmers against crop losses on payment of admissible premium to the insurance company. Under the crop insurance schemes claims are paid to only those farmers who insured their crops and paid premium under any of the notified crop insurance scheme. Admissible claims are worked out and paid as per the provisions of the respective schemes.

The norms of assistance, is reviewed comprehensively after the award of successive Finance Commission taking into account various factors including the price rise. The Government of India has issued order on revised items and norms of assistance under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)/National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) on 8th April, 2015. The extant norms *inter-alia* provide for assistance to the farmers in the form of Agriculture Input Subsidy (where crop loss is 33% and above as against the earlier norms of 50%) for damage caused to all types of agriculture and horticulture cropped areas due to the notified natural calamities. Government of India has also enhanced the assistance amount to the farmers by 50% in the revised norms.

National Agricultural Market

1282. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to launch a National Agricultural Market (NAM) which would integrate all existing Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) across the country through an on-line platform in a bid to reduce number of intermediaries in fruit and vegetable marketing, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the proposed NAM would help farmers to sell their produce through local APMC to on-line Platform to locally as well as outside the APMC or even the physical boundary of the State, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) The Government has recently approved a Central Sector scheme for Promotion of National Agriculture Market (NAM) through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) for implementation during 2015-16 to 2017-18 with a budget of ₹ 200 crores. The Scheme envisages implementation of NAM through Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC), which is an autonomous organization under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC). It provides for a pan-India electronic trading portal which will network selected Agricultural Produce Marketing

Committees (APMC) market yards to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. NAM is a “virtual” market but it will have physical markets (mandis) at the back end. The e-platform will be deployed in selected 585 regulated wholesale markets across the country based on the States having carried out prior reforms in their marketing laws in respect of (i) a single license to be valid across the State, (ii) single point levy of market fee and (iii) provision for electronic auction as a mode for price discovery.

DAC will meet expenses on software and its customization to the State specific requirements. In addition, DAC will also give one time grant upto ₹ 30.00 lakhs per Mandi towards fixed cost for related equipment/infrastructure.

Initially, trading through the e-platform would cover trading of staples, such as cereals, pulses and oilseeds. Trading in fresh produce including fruits and vegetables will be considered once trading in staples has been smoothly established.

The selected APMC market yards that are integrated with the e-platform will offer the farmers both the choice to place their produce for sale either to the traders physically present in the mandi or else post the sale details on the on-line portal available in the same market yard for sale locally as well as outside the APMC or even within the physical boundary of the State.

Contingency plan to tackle deficient rainfall

1283. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that there could be deficient rainfall by eight to ten per cent in July and August, 2015;
- (b) if so, the contingency plan put in place by the Government; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has advised farmers to choose their crops wisely after a careful look at the weather forecast, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) to (c) India Meteorological Department (IMD) in its 2nd stage Long Range Forecast for 2015 South-West Monsoon released on 2nd June, 2015 has predicted that the season rainfall for the country as a whole is likely to be 92% of Long Period Average (LPA) during July and in 90% of LPA in August, both with a model error of $\pm 9\%$. Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), ICAR has developed agriculture contingency plans in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities in 600 districts of the country. The contingency plan provides