

Maharashtra and ₹ 237.51 crore to Andhra Pradesh from NDRF in the wake of drought for distribution as relief assistance to farmers.

In order to protect farmers against crop failure due to natural calamities, pest & diseases, weather conditions, Government of India has recently introduced the National Crop Insurance Scheme (NCIP) with component schemes of Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS). In addition, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which was to be withdrawn after implementation of NCIP from Rabi 2013-14 has been extended further. The State Government of Maharashtra had notified only two schemes namely; NAIS & WBCIS during Rabi 2014-15 season. The compensation is distributed to the farmers as per terms and conditions of the schemes concerned who have insured their crops under the scheme.

#### **Soil testing of cultivable land in Bihar**

†1285. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cultivable land in Bihar is more fertile, if so, details of the action plan of Government to carry out soil testing and supply of seeds on time; and

(b) whether new variety of seeds have been developed through agricultural research and provided to farmers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) The nutrient status of soils in Bihar is low to medium in available Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potas. Zinc deficiency is found in Samastipur, Arwal, Patna and Jehanabad districts. Iron deficiency is found in Samastipur and Vaishali district only. (Source: Soil Fertility maps prepared by Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal during 2011-12 to 2013-14.

The Government is implementing Soil Health Management scheme under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) in all States including Bihar. In 2014-15, setting up of 6 Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories, strengthening of 5 soil testing laboratories and distribution of micronutrients for 20,000 ha. has been sanctioned to State Government of Bihar and ₹ 552.40 lakh released. Government of Bihar has been allocated ₹ 357.77 lakh for 2015-16 under Soil Health Management.

Soil Health Card scheme has been introduced in all States including Bihar in 2014-15

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

with the aim to provide Soil Health Cards to all farmers across the country once in a every 3 years. Soil health card provides farmers with recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrient to be applied for cultivation of various crops along with soil amendments. A target to analyse 13.09 lakh soil samples and provide 113.82 lakh Soil health Cards to farmers during 3 years has been kept for Bihar. A sum of ₹ 253.39 lakh has been released to Bihar during 2014-15 under the scheme. Allocation for the year 2015-16 is ₹ 138.94 lakh.

Under National Agricultural Research System comprising of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities, 520 high yielding crop varieties/hybrids have been released during the last five years (2010-2014) including 291 cereals, 81 of oil seeds, 80 of pulses, 19 of forages, 29 of fibers and 20 of sugarcane that have fair degree of tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses.

Crop-wise high yielding varieties seeds have been made available to farmers of Bihar during Kharif 2015 as reported by State is given in the Statement.

**Statement**

*Requirement and availability of certified/quality seeds  
During Kharif 2015 in Bihar*

Crop	Requirement	Availability	Status	Further Tie up
Paddy	324800	397397	72597	-
Arhar	5837	8500	2663	-
Urd	1728	5000	3272	-
Moong	1600	1300	-300	To be Met from NSC
TOTAL	333965	412197	78232	

**Development of diabetic friendly rice varieties**

1286.SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: (a) whether it is a fact that researchers claim development of diabetic-friendly rice varieties; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad has identified three rice varieties with low glycemic index (GI) values which are considered suitable for diabetic patients. These varieties are: Lalat (GI=53.17), BPT 5204 (GI=51.42) and Sampada (GI=51).