

given on production and distribution of seeds, supply of seed minikits, transfer of improved production technologies through block demonstrations, frontline demonstrations, farmers training, supply of other inputs such as improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, water carrying pipes, supply of seed storage bins, seed treatment drums, bio-pesticides, micronutrients, bio-fertilizers, plant protection chemicals including bio agents etc. under the scheme.

- (b) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Implementation of National Agriculture Market Project

1470. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to provide guidance and issue directives to the respective State Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) to implement the envisaged National Agriculture Market Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is planning to work in coordination with State Governments to formulate a strong facilitating framework which will enable transparent exchange between the consumer and the producer; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) to (d) The National Agriculture Market (NAM) e-platform has been envisaged to bring in operational efficiency and transparency in the mandi operations and to enhance market access for the farmers and eliminate information asymmetry. In order to provide guidance to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for integration of their regulated wholesale markets with the NAM e-platform, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has had workshops from time to time for the States/UTs, one of which was the visit of State Ministers and officials to Hubli, Karnataka on 9th July, 2015 to witness first hand the functioning of e-marketing platform. The Department has also circulated a detailed template to enable States/UTs to prepare their Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to submit their proposals thereon to the Government. Further to facilitate integration, the implementing agency *i.e.* Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) will engage a Strategic Partner (SP) which shall, *inter-alia*, train all participants (farmers, commission agents, traders, employees of the Market, data entry operators, etc.) in the market where the NAM is adopted, so that every participant is able to operate the NAM for its business

requirement. Further, the SP will also provide one year local support to each participating mandi and set up a help desk to support day to day operations and to answer queries in the State language.

Fake pesticides

1471. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards media reports regarding selling of fake pesticides in Punjab and other parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government has taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) A special drive was launched in the month of September and October in Punjab against misbranded pesticides. A total of 3515 samples were drawn from different districts of Punjab by Central and State Insecticide Inspectors, out of which 146 (4.15%) samples were found misbranded. In addition, 6011 samples were drawn from other States, out of which 157 (2.6%) were found misbranded. Actions against the defaulters are being initiated as per the provision of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

Relief package for drought affected States

1472. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any scheme to give relief package to drought affected States;
- (b) if so, the details of the packages given during the last two years, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to create drought relief fund to provide sufficient financial grant matching the loss of farmers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) to (c) State Governments are empowered to initiate necessary relief measures from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily available with them. Additional