

Development of pest-resistant varieties of soyabean

2260. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR has developed certain pest-resistant and high-yielding varieties of soyabean which have shorter duration;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for delay in making these varieties available to farmers; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent large scale damage to soyabean crops due to bad weather and pests?

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

(b) ICAR has developed a number of high-yielding, pest and disease resistant/tolerant varieties of soyabean having short duration (85-100 days) such as JS 95-60, JS 93-05, NRC 7, NRC 86, JS 20-34 and JS 20-29. Of these, JS 93-05, JS 95-60 and NRC 7, are very popular among the farmers, while the other three varieties (JS 20-34, JS 20-29 and NRC 86) have been released recently. Usually it takes three years for production of quality seed through a well-structured seed chain and making it available to the farmers.

ICAR is mandated to produce breeder seed of different soyabean varieties as per the indents from different soyabean producing States received by DAC&FW and has taken up breeder seed production of these newly released varieties during kharif 2015. The breeder seed will be made available to the stakeholders to take up quality seed production.

(c) ICAR has developed and demonstrated improved production technologies to prevent large scale damage to soyabean crop due to bad weather and pests. Further, weekly agro-advisories to various State and central agricultural development agencies, print and electronic media are issued regularly along with farm visits.

Setting up of primary processing centres

2261. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased state: