

Mechanism to supervise royalty payments

2274. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether BT Cotton accounts for nearly 45 per cent of the industry and National Seed Association of India (NSAI) and farmers have paid over ₹5000 crore to a leading multinational seed company as royalty so far, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether the Hybrid seed producers' body wants Government to intervene and ensure a regulatory mechanism to supervise and determine royalty payments and licensing of hybrid technologies; and

(c) whether NSAI has urged the said company to slash royalty payments taking into account ceilings fixed by number of State Governments but failed to elicit positive response, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) National Seed Association of India (NSAI) has reported that Bt. Cotton accounts for nearly 45% in terms of value of the Indian seed industry and from 2002 to 2014, more than ₹ 5000 crores had been paid as royalty to the technology provider.

(b) Farmers Organizations and NSAI had requested this Department to intervene to regulate royalty charges for Bt. Cotton technology being charged by Mahyco-Monsanto Biotech (India) Limited. This Department has issued Cotton Seed Price (Control) Order, 2015 under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 so as to regulate cotton seed prices. The matter has also been referred to Competition Commission of India to investigate the allegations of monopolistic practices by Mahyco-Monsanto Biotech (India) Limited.

(c) NSAI has reported that their request to Mahyco-Monsanto Biotech (India) Limited, the technology provider, to reduce royalty payments has not elicited a positive response and that the matter is pending adjudication in the court.

Promoting organic farming

2275. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state: