

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has formulated draft guidelines on the End of Life Vehicle (ELV) of automobile sector after surveying a few important automotive hubs listed in the Automotive Mission Plan. The draft guidelines have been prepared since improper disposal of ELV/old vehicles may lead to environmental problems. The findings of the ELV sectoral survey were shared in regional workshops conducted by CPCB with the stakeholders for their feedback. Based on the findings and feedback from the stakeholders, the guidelines were drafted.

(e) The guidelines are presently placed on CPCB website seeking comments from the general public and stakeholders.

**Cultivation of Bt. Cotton varieties without adequate field tests**

2440. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Genetic Engineering approval Committee had endorsed cultivation of Bt. cotton varieties without carrying out adequate field tests for resurgence of secondary pests and diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) the total losses incurred by the farmers due to whitefly attack on Bt Cotton crops in various States during the last two years and the current year, so far. State-wise including Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by Government to conduct rigorous tests of all GM seeds before they are sold to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body to appraise and recommend large scale use and commercial release of genetically modified organisms. Government of India has a policy of taking a view on Genetically modified (GM) crop only after full scientific valuation of its biosafety and impact on the environment and on the consumers. Introduction of any new GM crop is preceded by a careful analysis of risks and evaluation of long term benefits for which extensive rules and guidelines framed by the Government for evaluating environmental and health safety impacts of genetically modified organisms. Standing Committee constituted by GEAC for Bt cotton hybrids expressing approved events for commercial release under Event Based Approval Mechanism (EBAM) had recommended cultivation of Bt. Cotton

hybrids after satisfying the prescribed parameters. GEAC had endorsed cultivation of Bt Cotton hybrids according to stipulated guidelines

(c) and (d) According to Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, cotton crop was affected by whitefly in North zone (Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan). During 2015, high incidence of whitefly was observed from the month of July 2015 onwards. Crops Division of DAC&FW deputed officers to visit affected areas of Punjab and Haryana. The assessment of report indicated losses to the cotton crop during Kharif 2015. Details of production, area and yield as released by Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), is given in Statement (*See below*). The steps taken by the Government, inter alia, include the following:

- (i) Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur and National Research Centre for Integrated Pest Management (NCIPM), New Delhi of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) issued advisories to the farmers in order to control insect/pest attack on cotton.
- (ii) CICR has developed kits to detect the presence of Bt genes, which have been commercialized and are being used by all the State seed testing agencies to monitor Bt cotton seed quality all over the country. State Government officials are also being regularly trained to detect the quality of Bt cotton seeds. Bt-hybrids were screened rigorously at five locations in north India for their susceptibility to whitefly and leaf curl virus. A list of hybrids susceptible to whitefly/CLCuD to be banned was placed on the CICR website and communicated to the Ministry of Agriculture. Based on multi-location screening, a list of Bt hybrids having low incidence of whitefly was shortlisted and communicated. Scientific test of all Bt-cotton hybrids is conducted every year under multi-location trials to identify hybrids suitable for cultivation in north India and to ban hybrids that are susceptible to whiteflies and leaf curl virus.
- (iii) The DAC&FW is implementing Online Pest Monitoring and Advisory Services (OPMAS) through NCIPM, New Delhi and Insecticide Resistance Management-High Density Planting System (IRM-HDPS) programme through CICR, Nagpur under National Food Security Mission-Commercial Crop (NFSM-CC) *w.e.f* 2014-15. The main objectives of both programmes *i.e.* OPMAS & IRM are pest monitoring, dissemination of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies and mitigating resistance development in insects.

**Statement**

*Comparative position of 1st advance estimates for 2015-16 vis-a-vis 4th Advance Estimates (Kharif only) for 2014-15 and Final estimates (Kharif only) for 2013-14*

State	Cotton					Area ('000 Hectares)					Yield (Kg/Hectare)		
	Production ('000 Bales of 170 kg)					1st Advance Estimates 2015-16	4th Advance Estimates 2014-15	Final 2013-14	Absolute differ- ence	Absolute differ- ence	1st Advance Estimates 2015-16	4th Advance Estimates 2014-15	Final 2013-14
	1st Advance Estimates 2015-16	4th Advance Estimates 2014-15	Final 2013-14	Absolute differ- ence	Absolute differ- ence								
1	2	3	4	5(=2-3)	6(=2-4)	7	8	9	10(=7-8)	11(=7-9)	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh	6200.0	6641.0	6956.0	-441.0	-756.0	2122.0	2540.0	2389.0	-418.0	-267.0	497	444	495
Gujarat	10800.0	11089.0	10150.0	-289.0	650.0	2800.0	3010.0	2519.0	-210.0	281.0	656	626	685
Haryana	2300.0	2300.0	2302.0	0.0	-2.0	581.0	647.0	536.0	-66.0	45.0	673	604	730
Karnataka	1150.0	2200.0	1875.0	-1050.0	-725.0	600.0	869.0	662.0	-269.0	-62.0	326	430	481
Madhya Pradesh	1700.0	1750.0	1730.0	-50.0	-30.0	547.0	574.0	514.0	-27.0	33.0	528	518	572
Maharashtra	7341.0	7019.0	8834.0	322.0	-1493.0	3900.0	4192.0	4192.0	-292.0	-292.0	320	285	358
Odisha	400.0	400.0	299.0	0.0	101.0	125.0	127.0	124.0	-2.0	1.0	544	535	410
Punjab	1682.0	1600.0	1968.0	82.0	-286.0	440.0	420.0	446.0	20.0	-6.0	650	648	750
Rajasthan	1300.0	1600.0	1287.0	-300.0	13.0	406.0	487.0	393.0	-81.0	13.0	544	559	557
Tamilnadu	534.0	786.0	408.0	-252.0	126.0	128.0	186.0	152.0	-58.0	-24.0	709	718	456
Others	100.0	90.0	93.0	10.0	7.0	50.0	31.0	33.0	19.0	17.0	340	494	479
All-India	33507.0	35475.0	35902.0	-1968.0	-2395.0	11699.0	13083.0	11960.0	-1384.0	-261.0	487	461	510