(b) whether Government has prepared any action plan to provide drip irrigation facilities to grow the Super Arhar to get bumber harvest; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi has not developed any super early variety of arhar maturing in two months. However, short duration arhar varieties maturing in 130-140 days have been developed and released for cultivation in different states including Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Arhar is mainly grown under rainfed condition and one or two protective irrigations are required, if there is a long dry spell. Drip irrigation is being used by the farmers to raise the arhar crop. The Central Government is providing assistance in the range of 21-54% of the cost of installation of drip irrigation system.

**Functioning of KVKs**

1001. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether our farmers are not enlightened to take care of weather fluctuations and uncertainties resulting in crop losses;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) working in districts have not come forward in time to assist the farming community; and

(d) whether Government has warned the KVKs to improve their functioning and if so, the results obtained in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Farmers are regularly informed about weather fluctuations and uncertainties to minimize the yield losses in various crops. The measures taken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) include creating a network of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) in Agricultural Universities(AUs) and selected KVKs; hosting of a dedicated website *(www.aicrpam-nicra-aws.in)* for continuous online monitoring of instant weather data across the locations; preparation and dissemination of micro level weather based agro-advisories to farmers by 25 centres of All India Coordinated Research Project on Agro- Meteorology (AICRPAM) located in 25 Agricultural Universities. Besides, weather information and

related agro-advisories are provided to farmers by KVKs through Kisan Mobile Advisory messages, Radio and TV programmes and newspapers. Further, India Meteorological Department also issues weather forecasts at district level.

(c) In addition to the mandated activities like assessment and demonstration of various technologies in farmer's field, the KVKs stand by the farming community for providing technological backstopping and timely agro-advisories. In times of adverse climatic conditions like drought or long dry spells, floods or heavy rainfalls/unusual rains, speedy winds etc., the KVKs suggest farmers for adopting alternative technologies and practices. For this purpose district specific contingency plans have been prepared for 580 districts of the country to cope up with such situations.

(d) The ICAR has put in place a mechanism for improving the functioning of KVK through regular monitoring and review by holding of Scientific Advisory Committee meetings, mid-term and annual zonal workshops and visits to KVKs by senior officers from Zonal Offices, Directorates of Extension Education of Agricultural Universities and ICAR Headquarters. The functioning of KVKs is also reviewed by Quinquennial Review Teams. Based on the reviews, the KVKs are advised and directed for adhering to the administrative decisions of ICAR from time to time. The KVK-wise status in this regard is given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*Details of KVK-wise status for Adhering to administrative decisions of ICAR*

1. **KVK Guntur (Andhra Pradesh):** It was found that functioning of KVK, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh has been affected due to dispute amongst the management of the Host Organization which is sub-judice.

2. **KVK, Nanded (Maharashtra):** The KVK, Nanded, Maharashtra had some administrative issues concerning use and maintenance of KVK infrastructure, holding of scientific advisory committee meetings regularly and made procedural lapses in maintenance of records for which corrective measures were suggested and the same have now been followed.

3. **KVK, Unnao (Uttar Pradesh):** Complaints have been received alleging irregularities related to ownership of land, recruitment of staff and functioning of KVK, Unnao, Uttar Pradesh. It was decided that KVKs under NGOs established *w.e.f.* 13.01.2005 will have to mortgage their land in favour of ICAR. However, the KVK Unnao was established in 1999 and there was no such clause in the MoU signed between the

NGO managing the KVK and the ICAR. Therefore, mortgage of land of the KVK cannot be enforced. Further, a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Director, IISR,Lucknow to fill up all the vacancies of KVK Unnao.

4. **KVK, Jamui (Bihar):** As regards to KVK at Jamui district of Bihar, there was a dispute regarding ownership of the land between the two related organizations and a committee was constituted for investigating the issue. Based on the recommendations of the Committee it has been decided to continue with the ownership of the KVK with the existing NGO (Shrambharti Khadigram).

5. **KVK, Thanjvaur and KVK, Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu):** There were also complaints regarding irregularities in KVK Thanjvaur and KVK Tirunelveli of Tamil Nadu related to construction and unauthorized use of buildings, appointment of staff, payment of salary to employees and diversion of funds. The matter has been investigated by a committee. In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee, inadmissible expenditure at the KVK, Thanjvaur has been worked-out and legal advice sought for further course of action. The case of KVK, Tirunelveli is sub-judice.

**Increase in premium for weather based crop insurance scheme**

1002. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the weather based crop insurance scheme premium payable by the farmers has been increased by Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to provide impetus to agriculture and incentives to farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) No, Sir. Actuarial rates of premium with subsidy upto 50% of premium subject to maximum premium of 6% payable by farmers are charged under Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). However, the existing crop insurance schemes has recently reviewed by the Government and premium payable by farmers has been substantially reduced and simplified and there is One premium rate on pan-India basis for farmers which would be maximum 1.5%, 2% and 5% for all Rabi, Kharif and annual horticultural/commercial crops, respectively under re-restructured WBCIS from Kharif 2016 season.