

by farmers etc. On the recommendation of the Committee, the Government shall notify the maximum sale price of Bt. Cotton seeds on or before 31st March of every year applicable for the next financial year.

Unified national market for agriculture commodities

1016. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to create a unified national market for agriculture commodities, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for deployment of electronic trading platforms in all wholesale markets across the country in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) The Government has approved a scheme for setting up of National Agriculture Market (NAM) through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) on 01.07.2015 with a budget of ₹ 200 crore and to be implemented during 2015-16 to 2017-18.

The scheme envisages implementation of the National Agriculture Market (NAM) by setting up of an appropriate common e-market platform that would be deployable in regulated wholesale markets in States/UTs desirous of joining the e-platform. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) will implement the national e-platform in 585 selected regulated markets and will cover 400 mandis in 2016-17 and 185 mandis in 2017-18. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) will meet expenses on software and its customization for the States and provide it free of cost to the States and Union Territories (UTs). DAC&FW will also give grant as one time fixed cost subject to the ceiling of ₹ 30.00 lakhs per Mandi (other than to the private mandis) for related equipment/infrastructure in 585 regulated mandis, for installation of the e-market platform. State Governments will propose the regulated markets which are to be integrated with NAM.

Integration of regulated markets with NAM requires certain pre-requisites in the State Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts, namely- (i) a single license to be valid across the State, (ii) single point levy of market fee and (iii) provision for electronic auction as a mode for price discovery. Only those States/UTs that have provided for these three pre-requisites will be eligible for assistance under the scheme.

(b) Presently the scheme envisages integration of only 585 regulated markets with NAM platform. The schedule for implementation is as follows:

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| i. Launch of NAM platform on pilot basis: | 14th April 2016. |
| ii. Integration of 200 regulated markets: | By September, 2016. |
| iii. Integration of 200 regulated markets: | By March, 2017. |
| iv. Integration of 185 regulated markets: | By March 2018. |

High production cost of fertilizers

1017. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets set and actual production of fertilizers during last five years, year-wise, sector-wise and component-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to address the long standing problem of high production cost of fertilizers especially with regard to the customs duty on import of raw materials;

(c) whether Government is aware that several joint ventures entered into with foreign countries have not been completed; and

(d) the details of the joint venture projects entered into by India during last ten years along with their current status and expected time period for completion project-wise and country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) The details of target and actual production of major fertilizers during last five years sector-wise and product-wise are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Department of Fertilizers had taken up the matter of reduction of custom duty on import of fertilizer raw materials with Department of Revenue. However the same has not been considered by Department of Revenue.

(c) Before any Joint Venture is established, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is normally signed between two parties. After signing of MoU, due diligence is carried out by both parties to ascertain the feasibility, pricing, supply of raw materials, gas pricing etc. Based on the feasibility study and market dynamics, both parties take decision whether to go ahead with the project or not. Signing of MoU alone is not a confirmation of establishment of a Joint Venture project.

(d) Department of Fertilizers has undertaken Joint Ventures abroad with 05 countries are given below: