

yield under NAIS and MNAIS. Similarly under Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS), deviation from the prescribed weather parameters is paid under the scheme.

Since the crops and areas to be included in Crop Insurance Schemes are decided by the concerned State Governments/UTs. Accordingly, State Government have been advised to notify both irrigated and un-irrigated crops separately. However, State Government is required to conduct requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) separately for both irrigated and un-irrigated areas to determine the yield loss and claims. Claims are determined strictly as per shortfall in yield multiplied by sum insured under NAIS and MNAIS and deviation in weather parameter multiplied by notional sum insured under WBCIS.

Field trial of GM crops

1601. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the time taken for conducting field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) crops by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Universities and other universities, State-wise; and

(b) the steps are being taken to reduce the time lag between an application for conducting field trails and its subsequent approval or disapproval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Field trials are conducted uniformly across the states as per standard biosafety norms defined by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). For each new Genetically Modified (GM) event, it takes four years (event selection trials: one year; Biosafety Research Level Trial-I (BRL-I): two years; Biosafety Research Level Trial-II (BRL-II): one year) to conduct field trails by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutes and other universities.

(b) Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) meetings are held regularly, wherein proposals of field trails on GM crops are considered and on the basis of the merits, recommended to GEAC for approval or disapproval. Now, meeting of GEAC is held every month.

Improving the health of soil

1602. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been emphasizing on improving the health of soil by integrated nutrient management, if so, the details thereof; and