

for implementation from the financial year 2014-15 of the Twelfth Plan to enhance performance of implementation of the scheme. As per the revised scheme, states are required to constitute State Level Project Screening Committee (SLPSC) headed by Agriculture Production Commissioner or any other officer nominated by Chief Secretary for screening RKVY project proposals prepared by various departments of the State for its suitability, its linkage to District Agriculture Plans (DAPs) and State Agriculture Plan (SAP) and its adherence to the RKVY guidelines before placing the projects for approval by the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC).

(c) and (d) A web-based Management Information System (MIS) is already in place for monitoring of RKVY implementation. States are mandated to enter data on status of implementation of projects under RKVY online on this website for monitoring.

Farm credit and insurance cover for tenant farmers

1630. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that informal tenancy is one of the main reasons for the tenant farmers not getting low interest farm credit and crop insurance scheme benefits, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the fresh steps taken by Government to extend these benefits to the tenant farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. To bring small, marginal, tenant farmers, oral lessees, etc. into the fold of institutional credit, Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) have been promoted by banks. Detailed policy guidelines have been issued to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), State Co-operative Banks, State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) to finance Joint Liability Groups of tenant farmers/oral lessees, share croppers, etc. through JLG model. As on 31st January, 2016, 14,44,000 JLGs have been promoted and a loan amount of ₹ 14,312.30 crore has been disbursed to JLGs.

Further, the Government provides interest subvention to make short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3 lakh available to farmers at the interest rate of 7% per annum and in case of prompt repayment, the same gets reduced to 4%. In order to discourage distress sale of produce by small and marginal farmers, post-harvest loans against Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs) provided by banks to small farmers/marginal Farmers having Kisan Credit Card (KCC), are also available at the interest rate of 7% per annum for a period of up to six months.

All farmers including share croppers and tenant farmers growing the notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for coverage under Crop Insurance Schemes implemented by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. However, farmers should have insurable interest for notified/insured crops. Crop Insurance Schemes are compulsory for the all farmers including tenant farmers, availing Crop loans/Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) for notified crop(s) in notified areas and voluntary for other farmers (Non-loanee). The non-loanee farmers are required to submit necessary documentary evidence of land records prevailing in the States and/or applicable contract/agreement details/other documents notified or permitted by concerned State Government.

Hence, tenant farmers/oral lessees and share croppers possessing Kisan Credit Card or term loan individually through Joint Liability Group can avail benefit of the low premium rate and benefits of crop insurance scheme.

Incentives to farmers for producing variety of wheat

1631. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Punjab is a large producer of wheat;
- (b) whether Central Government has organized any buyer-seller meet on procurement of wheat from farms in Punjab, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government is providing any incentives to farmers of Punjab for Research and Development in the field of producing large varieties of wheat and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No formal buyer-seller meet has been organized for procurement of wheat from farms in Punjab. However, the public procurement machinery for procurement of wheat in the State is very effective and almost the whole quantity of market arrival of wheat in the State is procured by Public Procurement Agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government.

(c) The Government is not providing direct incentives to the farmers of Punjab for Research and Developments (R&D) in the field of producing large varieties of wheat. However, the Central and State Governments have been providing financial support to the Punjab Agriculture University (PAU) in its R&D programme on wheat. Under National Food Security Mission (NFSM)—Wheat assistance is also provided