

Modification of National Crop Insurance Programme

348. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to modify National Crop Insurance Programme after consultations with State Governments and other stakeholders;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the issues identified by Government after consultations; and

(c) by when the revised Crop Insurance Programme is going to be implemented?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) has been reviewed recently in consultation with various stakeholders including States, farmers, insurance companies etc. The major issues identified in the existing crop insurance schemes were high premium rates to be paid by farmers, different premium rates in neighbouring districts, capping on premium resulting in reduction in sum insured and lesser claims for farmers, delay in settlement of claims, less use of improved technologies etc.

(c) After detailed discussion Government of India has recently approved Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) which would replace the existing schemes of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) from ensuing Kharif 2016 season. Premium rates under Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) have also been reduced and brought at par with new scheme. In addition, a Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) has also been approved for implementation on pilot basis in selected 45 districts of the country from ensuing Kharif 2016 season to cover the other assets/activities like machinery, life, accident, house, student-safety and crops of the farmers.

Compensation package for farmers

349. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to provide adequate Minimum Support Price (MSP) for major agricultural produces in the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect the interest of millions of small and marginal farmers and the compensation package provided per acre land during any calamities or floods;