

interest loans. Compliance to WHO-GMP Norms are necessary to enter export markets in most of the countries.

(b) The Department of Pharmaceuticals is also formulating Venture Capital Fund Scheme to promote Drug Discovery and Pharma Innovation in the country.

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### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

#### **Shortfall in production of pulses**

1441. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there will be a likely shortfall in the production of pulses leading to higher import of major pulses, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps proposed by Government to increase the acreage for enhancing cultivation of pulses to meet the domestic demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) The annual production of the pulses in the country has been generally lower than their requirement and the gap is met through imports. As per 2nd Advance Estimates, total production of pulses in the country during 2015-16 is estimated at 17.33 million tonnes against their projected demand of 21 million tonnes for the year.

(b) In order to increase production of pulses in the country through area expansion and enhancement of productivity, Government of India has been implementing through State Governments, the National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Pulses since 2007-08. Since 2014-15, NFSM- Pulses is being implemented in 622 districts of 27 States including all districts of North-Eastern and hill States From the year 2016-17, NFSM- Pulses has been extended to 638 districts of 29 States with the inclusion of 14 districts of Kerala and 2 districts of Goa. Under NFSM, a programme on additional area coverage for increasing pulses production during Rabi/Summer season is also being implemented since 2012-13 to enhance area and productivity of pulses in major pulses growing States. To give a boost to their area and production, pulses have also been included under the scheme "Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI)" from 2015-16 as part of demonstrations under cropping systems based approach to target rice fallow areas.

To encourage farmers to grow more pulses by ensuring remunerative prices, the Minimum support Prices (MSPs) of pulses have also been increased over the years.

During 2015-16, over and above MSPs, the Government has also announced a bonus of ₹ 200/- per quintal for kharif pulses and ₹ 75/- per quintal for rabi pulses.

#### **Cultivation of sugarcane in drought prone areas**

1442. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to discourage cultivation of sugarcane in drought prone areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to compensate the farmers of drought affected Marathwada, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) No. There is no Central or State law under which sugarcane cultivation can be restricted. However, steps are being taken to promote less water requiring crops like oilseeds, pulses, coarse cereals etc. in drought prone areas. Besides, cultivation of drought tolerant cultivars, use of efficient irrigation devices and water conservation practices are also being promoted.

(c) Government has released an amount of ₹ 1112.25 crores as central share under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) during 2015-16 and ₹ 583.875 crores as first installment in 2016-17. An amount of ₹ 3049.36 crores was approved from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to Government of Maharashtra.

#### **Plantation of Eucalyptus**

†1443. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that in the area of real green revolution of Western Uttar Pradesh, in the Action Plan for the year 2015-16 available on the website *updas.org* plantation of eucalyptus had been included;
- (b) whether plantation of eucalyptus is against the real purpose of this scheme; and
- (c) if so, Government's response thereto?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.