(c) to (e) There is no ban on cultivation of Khesari dal, only its sale and storage are prohibited.

Pest attack on CR-1009 Samba rice variety

1446. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that CR-1009 Samba rice variety, grown widely in Delta region, has over the years become susceptible to pests such as brown plant hopper and bacterial blight;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the yield losses reported due to such pest attack; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government to develop new pest resistant variety of Samba rice for Delta region in order to prevent high scale losses to Samba cultivator farmers of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Mono culturing of few selected rice varieties repeatedly for many years results in loss of resistance/tolerance of the rice variety against pest and diseases. CR-1009 was released more than two decades back and the same, though still popular, grown widely in the delta region, had over the years become susceptible to pests such as Brown Plant Hopper (BPH) and Bacterial (Yield) Blight among other pests. It is not unusual that due to continuous pest pressure the tolerance level is reduced. To meet the challenge, ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities are continuously engaged in breeding varieties and improving existing varieties to withstand the onslaught of pests and diseases.

(b) Yield losses in Samba rice variety depends on the intensity and spread of the disease (BLB) and the insect pest (BPH).

Moderate to severe incidence of bacterial blight of rice *(Xanthomonas oryzae pv. Oryzae)* was recorded on rice variety CR. 1009 (Savitri) with an average yield loss of 15-20% in areas like Kariakal in Puduchhery and Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu recently.

(c) ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), Hyderabad in collaboration with Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) have introgressed three major Bacterial Blight resistance genes, *Xa21, xa13* and *xa5* into the genetic background of Samba Mahsuri. Resulting improved Samba Mahsuri is released in the States of Tamil

Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The variety is being promoted aggressively by Indian Institute of Rice Research and National Rice Research Institute in the pest endemic areas.

A new rice cultivar AD-09367 is also developed for cultivation in the Delta region. The new variety has high tolerance to major pests and diseases, with yield advantage of 10 per cent over CR-1009.

Doubling the income of farmers by 2022

1447. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that it is not feasible to double the income of farmers by 2022 without changing the current agricultural policies and without provision of remunerative price to farmers for their produce;

(b) if so, the details of policy changes Government proposes in this regard;

(c) whether Government is aware that doubling the income by 2022 would not be achievable without implementation of the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee;

(d) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(e) if not, the concrete road-map for doubling the income of farmers by 2022?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (e) Government is aware of the need to review the strategy and programmes to double the farmers income by 2022. A Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare for examining the following aspects to double the farmers income:

(i) To study the current income level of farmers/agricultural labourers.

(ii) To measure the historical growth rate of the current income level.

(iii) To determine the needed growth rate to double the income of farmers/ agricultural labourers by the year 2021-22.

(iv) To consider and recommend various strategies to be adopted to accomplish (iii) above.