

(c) the time by which the new variety of arhar is likely to be made available to farmers for commercial cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Indian Agricultural Research Institute has developed early maturing (120 days) arhar genotype. This genotype is of determinate habit, short statured (<100 cm), suited for close planting (30x15 cm) and amenable to mechanical harvesting.

(c) This genotype is yet to be evaluated in different agro-ecologies in All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Pigeon pea.

#### **Use of hybrid and GM seeds**

1460. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Economic Survey has favoured use of hybrid and Genetically Modified (GM) seeds to increase agricultural productivity since there is limited scope for increasing acreage, if so, the views of Government in this regard; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to totally ban diversion of agricultural land for any other purposes, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Economic Survey has strongly advocated for adopting high yielding technologies such as hybrid and GM technologies for rapid progress towards world's agro-technological frontiers to increase crop productivity per unit area. Hybrids of maize, cotton, pearl millet, sorghum, castor, rice and vegetables have considerably enhanced the yield per unit area and revolutionized Indian agriculture. Bt cotton is the only transgenic crop approved for cultivation in India subsequent to extensive evaluation and regulatory process. Yields prior to commercialization of Bt cotton in 2002 rose from 300 kg/ha. to 523 kg/ha. during 2014.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Compensation to farmers for crop loss due to change in climatic conditions**

1461. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sudden and severe change in the climatic conditions is causing intense damage to crops and is affecting productivity also;