

(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;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to ensure that the damage to crops is minimized and the loss to farmers is compensated; and

(c) whether Government will consider balancing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of crops based on the amount of damage that has been caused to the crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) During the year 2015-16, in view of deficit rainfall, several States in the country faced drought situation within their territories. Government of Karnataka (both for Kharif and Rabi), Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan submitted Memoranda seeking financial assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in this regard. The details regarding funds approved as agriculture input subsidy in 2015-16 drought affected States are given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) The following measures have been taken to ensure that the damage to crops is minimized and the loss to the farmers is compensated:

- Intervention made in drought affected areas during 2015-16 by implementation of diesel subsidy scheme, enhancement of ceiling on seed subsidy, implementation of interventions for saving perennial horticulture crops, implementation of additional fodder development programme.
- Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 600 districts for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of any extreme climatic events.
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been launched with the objective of extending the coverage of irrigation in a focused manner. Under PMKSY focus has been given for: creation of new water sources; repair, restoration and renovation of defunct water sources; construction of water harvesting structures, secondary and micro storage, ground water development and enhancing potentials of traditional water bodies at village level.
- Central Government has relaxed the norms under MGNREGA to provide additional employment of 50 days over and above the 100 days per household in the areas affected by natural calamities including drought during 2015-16.
- In order to protect farmers against crop failure due to natural calamities, pests and diseases, weather conditions. Government of India recently

introduced the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for implementation from Kharif 2016.

- The first installment of Central Share of SDRF for the year 2016-17 amounting to ₹ 2551.875 crore has been released in advance to the 10 drought affected States.

(c) The Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the major agricultural produce on the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after taking views of the State Governments, Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers various important factors which, *inter-alia*, include cost of cultivation, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc.

MSP is in the nature of Minimum price offered by the Government to farmers. However, farmers exercise their option to sell their produce to Government agencies at MSP or in the open market.

Statement

Assistance for agriculture input subsidy approved from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for drought 2015-16

| (₹ in crore) | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Sl. No. | State | Calamity | Amount approved in 2015-16 |
| 1. | Karnataka | Drought | 1525.31 |
| | | Drought-R | # |
| 2. | Chhattisgarh | Drought | 1231.72 |
| 3. | Madhya Pradesh | Drought | 2030.56 |
| 4. | Maharashtra | Drought | 2873.95 |
| 5. | Odisha | Drought | 815.00 |
| 6. | Telangana | Drought | 702.71 |
| 7. | Uttar Pradesh | Drought | 1244.52 |
| 8. | Andhra Pradesh | Drought | 316.93 |
| 9. | Jharkhand | Drought | 253.28 |
| 10. | Rajasthan | Drought | 1177.59 |
| TOTAL | | | 12171.57 |

Government approved in total ₹723.23 crore from NDRF including subsidy for agriculture input.

R: Rabi