

(c) the total number of wholesale markets in Maharashtra that are to be connected with it in the first phase; and

(d) whether any time-limit has been fixed to connect all wholesale markets in the country including Maharashtra with an e-platform, if so, details thereof and if not reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) scheme on 01.07.2015 with a budget of ₹200 crore. The scheme envisages, to deploy a pan India electronic trading portal in selected regulated wholesale markets in States across the country. 585 markets are targeted for integration with e-NAM by March, 2018.

For integration with e-NAM, States are required to complete certain pre-requisite reforms in their respective Agriculture Produce Marketing (Regulation) Acts to provide for (i) a single license to / be valid across the State, (ii) Single point levy of market fee, and (iii) Provision for electronic auction/as a mode of price discovery.

Under the scheme, the Government provides software free of cost and grant up to ₹30 lakh per market to the eligible States for related infrastructure/equipments including for assaying.

e-Nam is expected to benefit the farmers through enhanced market access by way of allowing remote online bidding for their produce, removal of information asymmetry between buyers and sellers, real-time price discovery based on the actual demand-supply gap through transparent online auction, uniform marketing procedures, remuneration according to quality of produce and online payment directly to farmer's account.

(c) The Government of Maharashtra has identified 30 markets of Maharashtra to integrate with e-NAM in the first phase.

(d) Yes, Sir. The target is to integrate 200 markets across the country by 30th September, 2016, another 200 markets by 31st March, 2017 and 185 markets by 31st March, 2018 with e-NAM which includes 30 markets of Maharashtra State.

Cultivation and marketing of indigenous varieties of rice

2964. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to promote native rice varieties in various parts of the country;

(b) whether Government has chalked out a strategy to explore avenues to propagate cultivation of indigenous varieties of rice and to ensure a marketing network therefor;

(c) whether indigenous rice varieties have a huge potential in the market but it has yet to be tapped properly; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (d) All varieties of rice including native varieties are being promoted under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). Under both programmes, assistance is provided for packing, labelling and branding of products produced organically.

For increasing production of rice in the country, newer varieties of rice are also promoted under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI). Assistance is provided to farmers for demonstrations of improved new varieties and production technologies.

Adverse effect on chemical fertilizers

†2965. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excessive use of chemical fertilizers causes many problems, including loss of land fertility and diseases;

(b) if so, whether Government has conducted any research to ascertain the reasons therefor, if so, details thereof;

(c) the results of research conducted and whether Government has taken any action on these results, the details thereof;

(d) the proportion of traditional safe manures and chemical fertilizers used in the country in each of last three years and the current year; and

(e) whether Government has launched any awareness drive to train farmers in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) There is no harmful effect of chemical fertilizers with recommended doses and judicious use. However, imbalanced use of chemical

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.