

- (c) by when these two Universities are going to commence their operation; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (d) The Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar has been converted into Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar by enactment of Parliament on 11.05.2016. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University Act, 2016 has been notified in the Gazette of India on 28.05.2016. The University is already in operation.

Jharkhand University is not Central Agricultural University.

#### **Suicide by farmers**

2967. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is paying special attention to the reasons responsible for forcing farmers to commit suicide day by day as such incidents keep on increasing;
- (b) whether Government is conducting any study to understand the financial burden of farmers; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor as the increasing cases of suicide by farmers is a tragic and complex issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Agriculture, including agricultural indebtedness, being a State subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support.

The strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Department has been implementing various schemes to meet this objective, viz.:

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and thus save money of farmers. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability

to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured urea is now neem coated. From the current year (*i.e.* 2016), the urea that is imported would also be neem coated.

- (iii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices.
- (iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- (v) National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) was approved on 1.7.2015 with a budget allocation of ₹ 200 crore to be implemented during 2015-16 to 2017-18. The releases of grants under the scheme are made on the basis of completion of 3 reform pre-requisites *i.e.* Single Trading License, Single License Fee and Creation of e-Platform for Trading. The scheme was launched on 14.04.2016 in 8 States *viz.* Gujarat, Telengana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand covering 21 markets. As of now 23 markets have been integrated.
- (vi) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is being implemented from Kharif 2016 season. PMFBY has addressed all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and is available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. This scheme would provide insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.
- (vii) The Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2015-16, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. The benchmark for initiating relief measures by banks has also been reduced to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework.
- (viii) In addition, the Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP);

National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

MSP is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). The Commission collects and analyses data on cost of activation and recommends MSP. The Government has also declared bonus on pulses for Kharif 2016 over and above the approved MSP. Even during last year, Government offered bonus over and above the MSP in case of pulses.

Further the Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.

(b) and (c) A study titled "Farmers Suicides: Causes and Policy Prescriptions" has been approved as an All India Coordinated study and allotted to Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC), Bangalore as a coordinator of the study. The study is to be carried out in 18 states *i.e.* Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Bihar, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry, Punjab and Maharashtra with their respective Agro Economic Research Centres (AERCs). The reference year of the study has been decided as the agriculture year 2015-16 (June, 2015-May, 2016). As per time line, the study is to be completed by March, 2017.

#### **Compensation to farmers of Rajasthan for crop loss**

†2968. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance Central Government provides to the farmers suffering from crop loss caused due to drought and other calamities;

(b) the details of compensation provided to the farmers of Rajasthan during the last two years; and

(c) the average monthly income of farmers' families in Rajasthan and the action plan of Government to improve it?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.