

buyers. Under the scheme, a national level electronic trading portal has been developed by the Government to initially connect 585 regulated wholesale markets across the country by March, 2018. This would facilitate them in getting the remunerative prices in competitive and transparent manner.

Further, under mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), assistance is provided for development of Post-harvest Management (PHM) and marketing infrastructure also. The component of market infrastructure includes rural primary markets, wholesale markets and terminal market complexes. Under PHM component of the scheme, credit linked back ended subsidy @35-50% is available for creation of various types of post-harvest infrastructure.

For rural primary markets, credit linked back ended subsidy @40% in general areas and @55% in hilly and tribal areas of the maximum project cost of ₹ 25.00 lakh is available.

For wholesale markets, credit linked back ended subsidy @ 25% in general areas and @ 33.33% in hilly and tribal areas of the maximum project cost of 100.00 crore/project is available.

For terminal market complex, under PPP mode, assistance @ 25% to 40% (limited to ₹ 50.00 crore) of project cost of 150.00 crore/project, which includes 25% as floor subsidy plus 15% as subsidy on bidding is available.

#### **Production of apple**

1369. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether production of apple has dropped ten to fifteen per cent in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the production of apple during each of last three years and the estimated production during the current year in major apple producing States, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to provide assistance to the affected farmers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) No, Sir. According to the information received from the states so far, there is likely to be an increase of about 36% in apple production in the country during the year, 2015-16 as compared to the previous year, 2014-15.

(b) The details of the production of apple during each of last three years and the estimated production during the current year in major apple producing States, State-wise is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) As the production of apples has been higher in 2015-16, no request has been received from the states in this regard.

**Statement**

*Production of apple in major apple producing States*

States/UTs	(Production in '000 MT)			
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (Provisional)
Jammu and Kashmir	1348.15	1647.69	1368.63	2003.07
Himachal Pradesh	412.40	738.72	625.20	753.35
Uttarakhand	123.23	77.45	106.10	106.14
Others	31.60	33.82	33.91	34.03
<b>TOTAL (ALL INDIA)</b>	<b>1915.38</b>	<b>2497.68</b>	<b>2133.84</b>	<b>2896.59</b>

*Source:* Horticulture Statistics Division, Department of Agriculture, Coopn & FW

**Contingency plans for farmers to tackle with natural calamities**

†1370. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated agriculture contingency plans for farmers to tackle natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of farmers benefited, State-wise and UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has prepared District Agricultural Contingency Plans (DACP) to tackle any eventuality in agriculture sector including horticulture, livestock, poultry, and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.