

the erstwhile crop insurance schemes in consultation with various stakeholders including States/UTs and a new scheme namely, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has been approved for implementation from Kharif 2016 season along with pilot Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) and the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). Under the PMFBY, a uniform maximum premium of only 2% will be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the maximum premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%. The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low and balance premium will be paid by the Government to provide full insured amount to the farmers against crop loss on account of natural calamities.

PMFBY provides comprehensive risk insurance against crop damage from pre-sowing to post-harvest. The scheme not only safeguards against wide spread yield loss due to non-preventable natural risks *viz.* Drought, flood, pest and diseases etc. but also against farm level yield loss due to hailstorm, landslide and inundation. Further, immediate relief is also provided to insured farmers in case of adverse seasonal conditions during the crop season due to which expected yield during the season is likely to be less than 50% of the Threshold Yield in the concerned insurance unit.

The criteria for providing benefits under the scheme is same for all categories and admissible compensation/claim is determined based on the shortfall in actual yield as assessed through Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) *vis-a-vis* threshold yield. Threshold yield being average yield of past seven years (excluding a maximum two calamity year(s) as notified by State Government/Union Territory) multiplied by applicable indemnity level for that crop.

The compensation/claim amount is arrived thereafter as per the formula below:—

$$\frac{(\text{Actual Yield} - \text{Threshold Yield}) \times \text{Sum Insured}}{\text{Threshold Yield}}$$

Preparation of a comprehensive food policy

†1935. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to prepare a comprehensive food policy keeping in view the instability in production of foodgrains due to lack of irrigation facilities in the country, so that dependence on monsoon may be reduced; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) There is no instability in production of foodgrains. The production of foodgrains increased from 217.28 to 252.22 million tonnes during last decade (2006-07 to 2015-16). In order to ensure food security in the country, various crops development programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) etc. are being implemented to increase the production and productivity of foodgrains.

Besides, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been implemented from July, 2015 to create irrigation sources and improve efficiency of water use to bring more area under irrigation. Government also declares Minimum Support Prices for various crops including foodgrains to ensure better prices to farmers.

However, there is no proposal under consideration to prepare a comprehensive food policy.

Agriculture becoming non-profitable

1936. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the future of agriculture in our country is bleak since it has become non-profitable for our agriculturists with the escalation of cost of irrigation, fertilizer and seeds on the one hand and the absence of remunerative prices for the produce on the other; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the major agricultural produce on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers various important factors that include cost of cultivation, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc. Cost of production includes all paid out cost such as cost on irrigation, fertilizer, seeds etc. including family labour.