

The States like Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh are promoting the farm machinery and implements such as baler, rice straw chopper, rotavator, happy seeder, zero till seed drill etc. for the management of crop residues. Special campaigns are being taken to create awareness among the farmers to avoid the burning of crop residues.

Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan also issued notifications under Section 19 (5) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for prohibiting or restricting the open burning of straw.

Infrastructural development in agriculture sector through FDI

1952. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of infrastructure created in Agriculture sector after implementation of FDI, State-wise; and

(b) the details of proposed or anticipated infrastructural development in Agricultural sector through FDI in next two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) From April 2000 to September 2016, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows of US\$ 2,299.82 million have been received by country in agriculture sector (*i.e.* agriculture services including agriculture machinery). These investments were made in development and production of seeds and planting material, horticulture, floriculture, agriculture machinery and various agriculture services like cold storage etc.

(b) FDI is an ongoing process. Therefore, the details of estimated infrastructural development in agriculture sector through FDI in next two years could not be quantified.

Delay in settlement of claims under crop insurance scheme

†1953. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to improvise the crop insurance scheme in order to make it more beneficial for farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the precautions taken by Government to make the scheme effective in order to save farmers from the burden of premium and insulate them from the loss arising out of crop damage;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether there is an abnormal delay in the settlement of claims filed by farmers; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government for an early settlement of claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Government has recently reviewed the erstwhile Crop Insurance Schemes and introduced yield based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and weather index based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) from Kharif 2016 to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities, to stabilize the income of farmers etc. Under PMFBY and WBCIS, the premium payable by farmers has been substantially reduced and simplified and there is One premium rate on pan-India basis for farmers which would be maximum 1.5%, 2% and 5% for all Rabi, Kharif and annual horticultural/commercial crops, respectively. The salient features of PMFBY are given in the Statement [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No 1944 (Part (a) to (d))].

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the complaints of delay in settlement of claims under erstwhile Crop Insurance Schemes, substantially reduced timelines for submission of yield data/weather data, processing and settlement of claims have been fixed in the PMFBY/WBCIS. In addition scheme also provides for use of Remote Sensing Technology, Smartphones and Mobile app and Drones for quick estimation of crop losses to ensure early settlement of claims. Crop Insurance Portal has been launched. This will be used extensively for ensuring better administration, co-ordination amongst stakeholders transparency dissemination of information and early settlement of claims.

**Implementation of organic value chain development
for North Eastern Region**

1954. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state the details of mission implementation structure at the National and State level under Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): Realizing the potential of organic farming in the North Eastern Region of the country, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched a **Central Sector Scheme** entitled “**Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region**” for implementation in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland,