

Providing financial security to farmers

†1126. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to incorporate all types of risks for providing financial security to farmers under the new crop insurance scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps in this regard, so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Government has recently reviewed the 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, comprehensive risk insurance is provided against crop damage from pre-sowing to post-harvest losses due to non-preventable natural risks *viz.* flood, inundation, landslide, drought, dry spells, hailstorm, cyclone, pests/diseases, natural fire and lightening, storm, typhoon, tempest, hurricane, tornado etc.

WBCIS is generally applicable to commercial horticultural crops and provides insurance protection/compensation to the farmers against adverse weather incidence, such as deficit of excess rainfall, high or low temperature (including heat wave, cold wave, frost), humidity etc. which are deemed to adversely impact the crop production.

Educating farmers to adopt modern techniques

1127. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture is the major source of livelihood of rural people;

(b) whether most of the farmers are still following age old practices of cultivation;

(c) if so, the measures taken to educate farmers to adopt modern techniques of farming to yield good crops economically;

(d) whether around 15 per cent of rural families are landless; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether there is any proposal to distribute uncultivable land to them to enable them to convert such land cultivable to earn their livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) According to the Population Census 2011, about 72.3 per cent of the total rural workers are cultivators and agricultural labourers.

(b) and (c) The practice of cultivation followed by farmers depend on various factors such as geographical conditions, crop grown, availability of improved seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, etc. The Government is implementing various programmes to encourage and support farmers in the country to adopt modern technologies and practices. Through National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology comprising activities such as Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, etc., latest agriculture technologies are disseminated to farmers of the country. Under schemes like National Food Security Mission and Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India trainings are imparted on crop management practices and also to create awareness about the new high yielding varieties/hybrids and new practices. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research also demonstrate technologies through established network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras to benefit farming community.

(d) and (e) The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducted the latest Land and Livestock Holdings Survey during 70th round (January–December, 2013) in rural areas of the country. This survey estimated that in rural India, about 7.41 per cent households possessed land “less than or equal to 0.002 hectares and it includes plots where area was not reported.”

As per Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, the subject of “Land and its Management” falls under the purview of State Governments. Therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to consider distribution of uncultivable land to rural families of landless. The role of the Central Government in the field of land reforms is of an advisory and coordinating nature.

Absence of marketing and storage facilities to farmers

1128. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of sound marketing facilities, farmers have to depend upon local traders and middlemen for disposal of their farm produce;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide sound marketing facilities to farmers;