

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 therefore been implementing various Schemes to meet this objective, viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), the National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) etc.

(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.

Availability of new variety of Arhar Pusa-16

1156. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that new variety of Arhar Pusa-16 has been developed by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) which will be ready in 4 months in place of traditional variety which takes almost 8-10 months to be ready for harvesting, if so, the details thereof along with its main features; and

(b) the time Government is likely to take to make available the seeds of the new variety of Arhar Pusa-16 to farmers in view of huge gap between the production and demand of Arhar dal within the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has developed early maturing Arhar genotype PADT 16 (Pusa 16) which matures in four months. Pusa 16 is of determinate habit, short statured (<100 cm), suited for close planting (30x15 cm) and amenable to mechanical spraying and combine harvesting.

(b) The new Arhar genotype PADT16 along with six other genotypes developed by different State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) is being tested during Kharif 2016 in National trial of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Pigeonpea for Extra-early maturity conditions under different agro ecological niches. The decision about its further testing/release for cultivation shall be taken as per the performance in National trial.

Integration of agricultural markets

1157. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are nearly 150 principal market yards and about 110 sub-market yards in Telangana;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning to integrate agriculture markets under the National Agriculture Market scheme;

(c) if so, how many of the above markets have been taken up for integration and by when all the 260 plus are going to be integrated; and

(d) the efforts being made to persuade the other States which have not brought amendments to their APMC Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) As per information made available by State Government of Telangana, there are 147 Principal Market Yards and 101 sub-Market Yards as on date.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) So far, 250 markets across 10 States have been integrated with e-NAM. Out of these 44 markets belongs to Telangana. Integration of more markets in Telangana depends on the proposal received from the State and availability of funds.

(d) The Government has already advised all the States/Union Territories for making amendment in their APMC Act to join NAM. The matter has been taken up at appropriate level by the Government through letters and discussion in meeting.

Price protection to farmers growing Kharif crops

1158. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has estimated the output of Kharif crops in Maharashtra and rest of the country, if so, the details thereof;