

Further, the DoT and TEPC hosted the India Telecom 2017, International Business Expo at New Delhi during 20-21st January, 2017 focusing on ASEAN-India Digital Connectivity opportunities commemorating the 25 years of ASEAN India engagement.

During the said interactions, the ASEAN country delegations expressed active interest in the proposals and the proposals are being examined by the countries and the ASEAN Secretariat.

(b) No MOU is signed as of now with regard to Digital Connectivity project proposals offered under line of credit.

Implementation of PMFBY in rural areas

†*120. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government for extensive promotion and propagation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), particularly keeping in mind the fact that almost 70 per cent farmers live in villages wherein a big section has not been properly educated;

(b) the Department that has been entrusted with the responsibility of promotion, propagation and implementation of this scheme in rural areas; and

(c) whether Government has conducted any study to ascertain whether this scheme is yielding desired results or not, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) To enhance the awareness of Crop Insurance Schemes specially among farmers, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare in the Central Government, concerned departments of State Governments viz. Departments of Agriculture/Cooperation, Horticulture/Extension and all empanelled insurance companies have been actively conducting various publicity, awareness and literacy programmes to educate the farmers about the benefits of crop insurance schemes. The salient activities under awareness campaign involve the publicity of features and benefits of the scheme through advertisements in leading National/local News Papers, telecast through audio-visual media, distribution of pamphlets in local languages, participation in agriculture fairs/mela/goshti, organization of workshops/trainings and SMS through Kisan Portal etc. One day seminar/kisan fairs have also been organized at various Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) throughout the country by this Department. Additionally the Rural Financial institutions are encouraged to undertake publicity to increase both awareness

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and farmers' coverage including non-loanee. Further, recently with the twin objective of providing a documentary proof to insured farmers alongwith serving the purpose of popularizing the scheme among the farmers the Government has decided to provide acknowledgement receipt and folio which will also contain important scheme information.

(c) As this is the first year of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)/Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) in the country, Government has not conducted any study to ascertain their impact. However, a close watch is being kept on the implementation/progress of the schemes which are being monitored at the highest level and through weekly video conferences with State Governments, insurance companies and financial institutions. Due to its new improved features and efforts made by the Government, coverage under PMFBY/RWBCIS, in the first season *i.e.* Kharif 2016 season, has increased to 382 lakh farmers over an area of 387 lakh ha. with sum insured of ₹ 141883 crore as compared to last Kharif season in 2015, when the coverage was 309 lakh, total area coverage was ₹ 338.72 lakh ha. and sum insured was ₹ 69306 crore.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Damage to crops by wild animals

1117. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State/UT-wise details of crops damaged by wild animals during the past three years;

(b) whether Government plans to include compensation for crops damaged due to wild animals under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY); and

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the details of alternative compensation plans/measures for crops damaged by wild animals to address the increasing losses faced by farmers due to such incidences, particularly for the State of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has informed that various States and Union Territories report for crop damage by wild animals from time to time. The crop area damaged by wild animals in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Jammu and Kashmir, Goa, Andaman and Nicobar, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram is given in the Statement (*See below*).