

is one of the technology (among the available technologies) to break the yield barrier in many crops including mustard through higher yield, pest and disease resistance, abiotic stresses tolerance, value addition and quality improvement. Genetically Modified Mustard hybrid DMH-11 developed by Delhi University had yielded 26 per cent more than the leading check varieties in the multi location trials conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research- Directorate of Rapeseed Mustard Research, Bharatpur over a period of three years. This will boost edible oil production and bring down import of edible oil.

(c) and (d) Delhi University has developed three non-Genetically Modified mustard hybrids DMH-1, DMH-3 and DMH-4 using Cytoplasmic Male Sterility technology.

(e) The provisions of compulsory registration and regulation of Genetically Modified crop varieties, mandatory clearance to be obtained under Environmental Protection Act 1986 from Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, prescription of minimum labeling standards for transgenic seeds, regulation of import and sale of transgenic seeds and prohibition on the use of Genetic Use Restriction Technology (GURT) etc. had been duly incorporated in the Seeds Bill, 2004.

Enhancing Government's share under Micro Irrigation Schemes

2581. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether the Ministry of Agriculture is considering to enhance the share of Government of India under Micro Irrigation Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): The funding pattern for Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) under which funds are made available to States for micro irrigation, is 90:10 between Government of India and State Government for the 8 North-Eastern and 3 Himalayan States and 60:40 for other States. There is no change in the funding pattern. However, the allocation for Micro Irrigation Scheme has increased by about 47% during 2016-17 over 2015-16 and the allocation for 2017-18 has been kept about 50% more than that of 2016-17.

Payment of wages to agricultural labourers

2582. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the mode of payment of wages by farmers to labourers working in their fields; and

(b) the total number of such labourers, who remained unpaid on account of unavailability of cash with farmers post demonetisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) The mode of payment of wages by farmers to labourers is in cash or kind and both. Payment in kind is very common in rural areas and includes foodgrains, cooked food, tea, etc. For reporting purpose, wages paid in kind are evaluated at local market retail prices. However, no information is available on the number of labourers who remained unpaid on account of unavailability of cash with farmers post demonetisation.

Diversification of agricultural production

2583. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any comprehensive plan for diversification of agricultural production in view of increasing population against fast decreasing agricultural land; and

(b) 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 separate plan for diversification of agricultural production. Indian Agriculture is bestowed with the diversified production in agriculture and allied sectors.

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Government of India is already implementing Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in the States which provides flexibility to the States to take up any project to raise production and productivity in agriculture and allied sectors. Besides, DAC&FW is also supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for increasing agricultural production by providing assistance under various ongoing Schemes *viz.*, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET), Soil Health Card Scheme, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) etc. for agriculture sector, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for horticulture sector. Crop Diversification Programme in Original Green Revolution States of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh, a sub scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) also ensures to divert the area of water guzzling paddy to