

In order to facilitate better price realization and ensure remunerative prices to farmers the Government has also launched a scheme to develop a pan India electronic trading platform under 'National Agriculture Market' (NAM) aiming to integrate 585 regulated markets with the common e-market platform. Each State is being encouraged to undertake three major reforms - allow electronic trading, have a single license valid throughout the State and a single entry point market fee.

Government also provides essential commodities to weaker sections of society at a subsidized price through Public Distribution system (PDS).

Promotion of farming of small scale produces

†3369. 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 contemplating to promote those agricultural produces which are produced on a small scale;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any step 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 S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) Government is promoting the production of agricultural produces of small millets being produced on small scale. These comprises of barnyard millet, proso millet, kodo millet, foxtail millet and little millet. The assistance is provided for demonstrations and seed distribution to the State Governments under National Food Security Mission (NFSM)- Course Cereals. Further, as per local needs, assistance is also provided under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) flexible programme.

In addition, ICAR also conducts location and situation specific research and extension on 17 potential crops through All India Coordinated Research Network on Potential Crops at various centres located in the different agro-climatic zones in the country.

Organic farming in the country

3370. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives of the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the key characteristics of organic farming; and
- (c) the total number of farmers practicing organic farming, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched under National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) to promote organic farming. The scheme is implemented through State Government who form clusters of 20 hectare each and provide an assistance of ₹50,000 per hectare per farmer in cluster during the 3 years with the objectives that organic agriculture should be production of agricultural products free from chemicals and pesticides residues by adopting ecofriendly low cost technologies. Further, its objective is also to improve the soil fertility, water holding capacity and availability of micro nutrient in the soil, restore ecological security and attain sustainability of agriculture production. Total 3.59 lakh farmers in 29 States and 1 Union Territory are receiving assistance under the Scheme.

Restriction on cultivation of paddy and sugarcane in Karnataka

3371. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Karnataka had imposed restriction on cultivation of sugarcane and paddy in view of droughts, causing huge losses to the farmers but no compensation has yet been provided, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the cultivated land during 2016-17 has reduced to 61,600 hectare from 96,200 hectare during 2015-16 affecting cultivation of even ragi, maize and pulses; and
- (c) the reasons for not extending timely support to farmers for cultivation to overcome constraints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The Government of Karnataka have informed that due to failure of South West Monsoon 2016 and North East Monsoon 2016, the State Government declared drought in 160 taluks during Rabi 2016-17 and cultivation of sugarcane and paddy was discouraged in Rabi/ Summer season.

- (b) As intimated by the State Government, cultivation of paddy during Rabi 2016-17 declined to 82,000 hectares (ha.) as against 1,33,000 ha. during 2015-16 and