

livestock sector focusing on improving availability of quality feed and fodder, risk coverage, effective extension, etc. in all the State/UTs of the country.

In order to prevent, control and contain animal diseases in the country, the department is implementing Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH and DC) Scheme under which financial assistance is provided to States/UTs for preventive immunization against economically important animal diseases, strengthening of veterinary infrastructure and surveillance and monitoring of animal diseases.

In addition to above, financial assistance is also provided under the normal programme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare for other fodder development and disease control activities planned by States/UTs which is supported by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

Issues pertaining to temple situated on IVRI land

2244. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) owns the land on which an ancient Mukteshwar Temple is located within its campus, if so, the details of complete land records;

(b) whether the Mukteshwar Mandir Samiti has fraudulently taken over the temple premises in connivance with IVRI employees;

(c) the steps taken to restore the possession of temple to the head Swamiji who is the disciple of Mukteshwar Maharaj; and

(d) whether action would be taken to evict the Mukteshwar Mandir Samiti office bearers from the temple premises, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Not applicable.

Role of middlemen in manipulating price of agricultural produces

2245. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the involvement of middlemen between the producer-farmer and end user-consumers is the main cause for steep increase or fatal fall in prices of agricultural commodities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it is also a fact that the farming community and the consumers are ultimate losers and the middlemen, the only beneficiaries; and

(c) if so, whether Government has any specific strategy to curtail the involvement of these middlemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Prices of agricultural commodities are driven by the supply and demand. However, long supply chain with multiple handlings by traders and commission agents may cause price gap between the farm gate/wholesale and retail.

(c) The Government has been advocating reforms in the agricultural market for enabling greater share of the farmer in the consumer's rupee. The new model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Promotion and Facilitation Act, 2017 released on 24.04.2017 provides for progressive reforms including private markets direct marketing, farmer consumer markets, special commodity markets and markets of national importance. The National Agriculture Market (e-Nam) launched on 14.04.2016 is an online trading platform to ensure transparency and competition to enable better price discovery by the farmers.

Implementation of crop insurance schemes

2246. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) the details of the various crop insurance schemes introduced in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the crop insurance has covered all the States and all the farmers in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the crops covered under different crop insurance schemes, State-wise; and

(d) the number of farmers benefited from these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) have been launched from Kharif 2016 season after thorough review of the then extant