

(Production in Lakh Tonnes)				
Horticulture Crops	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (Provisional)
Potato	415.55	480.09	434.17	480.96
Tomato	187.35	163.85	187.32	196.97
Onion	194.01	189.27	209.31	215.64

(c) and (d) Horticulture crops are usually highly remunerative and so more farmers are taking them up for production. However, in few cases, where the production has been bumper and the prices are non-remunerative, Government is implementing a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of these commodities.

The objective of this intervention scheme is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production.

Income of farmers of Jammu and Kashmir

2261. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to increase the income of the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir specially in Dairy, Fisheries and Horticulture sectors in view of the agenda of the Government to increase their income to almost double ; and

(b) the total percentage of villages and districts covered under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes in agriculture subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The Government of India is implementing the following schemes for the development of animal husbandry, dairying, fisheries and horticulture with an aim to supplement the income of farmers in the country, including in the State of Jammu and Kashmir:—

- (I) Rasthriya Gokul Mission
- (II) National Programme for Dairy Development
- (III) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme
- (IV) National Livestock Mission
- (V) Livestock Health and Disease Control
- (VI) Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries

(VII) Livestock Census

(VIII) Integrated Sample Survey and

(IX) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

(b) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing DBT in respect of its eleven Schemes (both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes). These schemes are implemented for the benefit of farmers through various interventions all over the country including districts and blocks of the States/UTs.

Awareness campaign to educate farmers

2262. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers committed suicide in the country during the years 2014 to 2017, as on date;

(b) the measures taken by Government to reduce agrarian distress in the country along with the details in this regard; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for an awareness campaign to educate farmers on latest and low cost agriculture methods, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2015 are available on its website. The Reports for the year 2016 onwards has not been published yet. As per the ADSI Reports for the years 2014 and 2015, the total number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers in the country is as under:

	2014	2015
Farmers	5650	8007
Agricultural Labourers	6710	4595
TOTAL	12360	12602

(b) The focus of the Government is 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 been implementing various schemes to meet this objective, viz. Soil Health Card Scheme (SHC), Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana