

to stop the wastage of food in transit, if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(b) whether Government is contemplating making the farm-level infrastructure mandatory; and

(c) if so, whether Government is also contemplating on providing at least one facility from integrated pack house cold storage or pre-cooling units in the villages selected under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) which provides assistance for establishment of post-harvest infrastructure including setting up of cold chain infrastructure near mandis and rural areas. Under MIDH, credit-linked back ended subsidy @ 35% of the project cost in general areas (and 50% in case of hilly and schedule areas) is available for various components of post-harvest infrastructure, including cold chain. Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce are also implementing programmes for creation of post-harvest infrastructure. The component is demand/ entrepreneur-driven from among entrepreneurs, private companies, cooperatives, farmers groups etc through commercial ventures.

Further, for the benefit of farmers, MIDH also provides assistance for creation of storage facilities at farm level through establishment of pack houses, pre-cooling units, staging cold room, evaporation/low energy cool chamber, preservation unit, onion storage unit and Pusa zero-energy cool chambers.

(c) Under MIDH, all State Horticulture Missions have been advised to allocate funds to each Members of Parliament under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana to be used in selected areas (Adarsh Gram) for promotion of horticulture development activities including post-harvest management, pack houses and creating awareness amongst farmers about benefits available under the scheme.

#### **Setting up of agriculture research and development institutes in Gujarat**

2282. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has established Agriculture Research and Development Institutes in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government is going to start more Agriculture Research and Development Institutes in Gujarat, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Department of Agricultural Research and Education/Indian Council of Agricultural Research (DARE/ICAR) has established 68 Institutes including 04 Deemed Universities (IARI, NDRI, IVRI and CIFE). Apart from these there are 15 National Research Centres, 14 Directorates, 06 National Bureaux, 56 All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs), 25 Network Projects, 69 State and Central Agricultural Universities including 01 Deemed University (Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences) and 680 Krishi Vigyan Kendras for Agriculture Research and Development in the Country.

(b) At present, the DARE/ICAR has no proposal to start more Agriculture Research and Development Institutes in Gujarat.

#### **Farmers' suicides in Maharashtra**

2283. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the increase in farmers' suicides in Maharashtra from 852 in January to April of 2017 compared to 375 till April, 2016;

(b) whether Government is considering any special budget under agrarian crisis in Maharashtra; and

(c) whether Government has any programme in place to identify psychologically depressed farmers and counsel them, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The State Government of Maharashtra has reported 855 cases of suicides from January–April, 2017 in comparison to 1023 cases of farmers suicide during January–April 2016.

(b) and (c) The Government of Maharashtra has also reported that for preventive measures of Farmer Suicide, pilot project in Yavatmal and Osmanabad districts in Amravati and Aurangabad Division are being implemented. An amount of ₹ 34.19 crore in year 2015-16 and ₹ 12.50 crore in year 2016-17 has been distributed in these two districts for implementation of Baliraja Chetana Abhiyan. Further, Public Health Department has a programme to counsel farmers.

Recently the State Government has announced loan waiver scheme for the farmers in the State.

The Government of India is also supporting implementation of District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) under the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)