

(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 PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) To supplement the efforts of Government of India to provide quality seeds including hybrid seeds to farmers at affordable prices, Government made an appeal to National Seeds Corporation and Private Seeds Companies to voluntarily reduce the prices of hybrid seeds.

Accordingly, Private Seed Industries and National Seeds Corporation, a Public Sector Undertaking under this Department has agreed to reduce the prices of hybrid seeds (except cotton seeds which is already regulated) by 10% on MRP during Kharif season 2017-18. Distributors/ Dealers of Private Seed Companies and Regional Offices of NSC have been suitably instructed by them to comply the above decision with immediate effect.

Effect of bollworm on bt. cotton

1481. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that bt. cotton is no longer resistant to pests as bollworm has developed resistance, thereby affecting farmers using these seeds;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of Maharashtra has written to the Ministry for its intervention;

(c) whether other States have also written to the Ministry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government on those requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) There is decline in susceptibility of pink bollworm in last two years to toxins Cry1Ac present in Bollgard I and Cry1Ac+Cry2Ab toxins in Bollgard-II in few areas of Gujarat, Khandesh region of Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

(b) to (d) The Ministry has received communication from the State of Maharashtra citing issues in respect of pink bollworm. The ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) has taken the following actions:—

- Advisory for management of pink bollworm has been formulated and given wide publicity among extension agencies, farmers and media.
- Regular field surveys, pest monitoring and resistance monitoring studies being carried out.

- Weekly advisories have been issued in English and 8 local languages on the CICR web site, with mails and alerts sent to the State Agricultural Departments.
- Weekly Voice mail advisories (E-Kapas) have been disseminated to 1,80,000 farmers across India.

Creating a separate Ministry for Fisheries

1482. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre is considering to create a separate Ministry for Fisheries; and

(b) if so, whether any time-frame has been set to form the said new Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) No Sir. There is no such proposal for creation of a separate Ministry for Fisheries under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Use of unsafe pesticides in farming

1483. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pesticides declared unsafe for human consumption are being used for agricultural farming;

(b) whether the retailers have no direction for controlled selling of the dangerous pesticides, not fit for human consumption;

(c) whether it is a fact that the manufacturers of the dangerous pesticides are actually encouraging the retailers to sell more of such pesticides to the farmers; and

(d) if so, whether there is any measure put in place by the Ministry to monitor the use of dangerous pesticides by the farmers for agricultural purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" (MPRNL) scheme, under which food commodities and environmental samples are collected and analysed for the presence of pesticide residues. None of the banned pesticides were detected under the MPRNL scheme.