

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Allegations regarding tampering of EVMs

\*205. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the allegations about the possibility of tampering of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs);

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government has received such complaints about the possibility of tampering of EVMs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government to address such complaints?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (d) The Election Commission has informed that around 120 petitions/representations/suggestions regarding Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were received in March-April, 2017. In 24 cases, petitioners had alleged tampering of EVMs. They were requested to submit credible evidence or any relevant material information in support of their claims to the Commission. So far no one has provided any verifiable information about any specific instance of EVM tampering or any credible evidence to substantiate their allegations.

### Actuarial premium rates under PMFBY

\*206. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the actuarial premium rates charged by the insurance companies under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), State-wise; and

(b) whether actuarial premium rates, higher than the all-India rate, are being charged by insurance companies in some States, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no all India fixed actuarial premium rate under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and it varies from district to district and even crop to crop. As per provisions of PMFBY, it is the State Governments that select the crops and areas based on the risk associated with them and make clusters with a mix of high, medium and low risk districts and provide the requisite information

including yield data of past 10 years, indemnity level and other terms and conditions to the insurance companies for conduct of a transparent bidding process. On the basis of this data insurance companies, after risk analyses based on historical claim payout/experience, variability in yield, administrative cost etc., bid for each cluster by quoting crop-wise competitive actuarial premium rates for each district within the cluster separately. The State thereafter awards the lowest bidder based on the weighted average of premium quoted for the cluster. The bidded actuarial premium rate is thereafter shared by the farmers at the fixed rates of maximum 1.5% for Rabi, 2% for Kharif and 5% for annual commercial/horticultural crops and the remaining by the Government, both Central and State on 50:50 basis.

Therefore, cluster-wise premium rates in some States like Haryana, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh etc. where yield variability is relatively less, are comparatively very low, say 1.5% or 2%, but, in States like Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan etc. where yield variability is more the cluster-wise premium rates are high. However, State-wise and season-wise details of average bidded actuarial premium rate as against sum insured charged by insurance companies under PMFBY and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) in 2016-17 are given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*State-wise details of Average Premium as against sum insured charged by insurance companies during 2016-17 under PMFBY and RWBCIS*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Kh 16	Rb 16-17	2016-17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.57%	13.25%	8.99%
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	3.46%	-
3.	Assam	3.37%	5.75%	3.67%
4.	Bihar	17.19%	5.75%	12.12%
5.	Chhattisgarh	4.07%	9.58%	4.51%
6.	Goa	1.27%	2.85%	1.28%
7.	Gujarat	20.49%	5.15%	19.16%
8.	Haryana	3.65%	2.25%	3.08%
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2.16%	10.83%	7.97%
10.	Jharkhand	14.03%	5.58%	13.53%
11.	Karnataka	13.90%	15.16%	14.40%

Sl. No.	State/UT	Kh 16	Rb 16-17	2016-17
12.	Kerala	7.84%	11.03%	9.98%
13.	Madhya Pradesh	14.36%	4.71%	9.75%
14.	Maharashtra	19.14%	20.01%	19.25%
15.	Manipur	9.72%	-	9.72%
16.	Meghalaya	10.45%	5.58%	8.59%
17.	Odisha	7.73%	1.70%	7.42%
18.	Puducherry	-	9.11%	-
19.	Rajasthan	20.05%	6.97%	14.66%
20.	Sikkim	-	2.22%	-
21.	Tamil Nadu	4.71%	20.33%	19.81%
22.	Telangana	6.39%	4.33%	5.70%
23.	Tripura	1.42%	1.30%	1.31%
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4.70%	3.63%	4.21%
25.	Uttarakhand	3.65%	7.22%	4.51%
26.	West Bengal	3.33%	10.36%	5.91%
TOTAL (ALL INDIA AVERAGE)		12.40%	7.98%	10.89%

#### MSP for paddy

\*207. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note that paddy growers in Odisha are in great distress due to low support price and huge difference between MSP and the cost of inputs;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken into consideration the demands of Government of Odisha to raise the MSP for paddy to ₹2930 per quintal to ensure adequate and fair returns to farmers;

(c) if so, the extent by which MSP for paddy is likely to be increased; and

(d) whether Government has worked out any plan to increase assistance to farmers hit by drought, if so, the details thereof?