

system. The scheme is being implemented in the States those have notified liberalized transit regulations for transport of timber. Implementation of the scheme has been started in 8 States and during 2016-17 and in 12 more States during 2017-18 after notifying liberalized transit regulations. Other States are also being motivated to notify liberalized transit regulations. Agroforestry will not only help in increasing soil organic carbon but also in creating additional source of income to farmers. Bee-Keeping: During the last 3 year (2014-15 and 2016-17) the number of honey bee colonies that were 20 lacs in 2014-15 have increased to 30 lacs during 2016-17, registering an increase of 10 lacs. Honey production in 2011-14 was 2,18,950 metric tons which has increased to 2,63,930 metric tons during 2014-17 *i.e.* an increase of 20.54%.

Dairying: Dairy sector is being promoted through schemes like Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Bovine Productivity Mission and various dairy development related projects are being implemented.

Fisheries: Foreseeing high potential in fisheries sector, a Blue Revolution with multi-dimensional activities mainly focusing on fisheries production, both inland and marine is being implemented.

(b) With a view to make concessional credit available to farmers for crop production, the Government implements the Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) under which, in the case of prompt repayment, an interest subvention of 5% is provided to the farmers for short term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh, thereby reducing the effective rate of interest to 4% p.a. for such farmers. Some State Governments also provide additional interest subvention, reducing the effective interest burden on short term crop loans to zero.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Settlement of farmers' claims under PMFBY

2081. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers with large land holdings majorly opt for crop insurance under PMFBY and not the small land holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that settlement of farmers' claims takes unusually long time and the financial institutions do not make a reasonable assessment of the damage to farm produces in the true spirit of PMFBY; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) No Sir. As is evident from coverage during Kharif, 2017, out of the total farmer applicants under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), more than 80% are small and marginal farmers.

(c) and (d) The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) stipulates that claims may be settled by the concerned insurance company within 21 days of receipt of yield data from the concerned State Government subject to payment of full premium subsidy by the Government, both Central and State. During 2016-17, which was also the first year of scheme implementation, claims were mostly settled within two months after receipt of yield data. In some exceptional circumstances there was delay in settlement of claims on account of delay in receipt of State share of subsidy, discrepancy in yield data, verification of applicants/coverage, non-availability of farmer account details etc. Further, the claims are worked out and settled by the insurance companies based on the assessment of crop yield/crop loss by State Government. To further streamline the loss assessment and claim settlement process, the Government has already adopted several remedial measures including mandatory use of smartphone/CCE Agri App for realtime reporting of yield data on the crop insurance portal, preparation of modules for auto calculation of claims, initiation of direct transfer of claims to farmers' bank account, rigorous monitoring etc.

Pre and post harvest losses

†2082. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to check pre and post harvesting crop losses in the country, including Maharashtra;

(b) whether any study regarding the volume of pre and post harvest losses of crops in the country has been conducted by Government, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.