

Study on use of neem coated urea as fertilizer

2101. DR. C.P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study on the use of neem coated urea as fertilizers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the status of demand and supply of neem coated urea in the State of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) A study titled 'Impact of Neem Coated Urea (NCU) on production, Productivity and Soil Health in India' has been conducted in the year 2017 by Government on the use of NCU as fertilizer. The study was conducted by Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru in 6 States namely, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Punjab on the instance of Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers. The reference period of the study was Kharif, 2015. The objectives of the study were to (i) analyze the trends in usage and prices of urea and NCU, (ii) analyze the adoption behaviour of NCU farmers in irrigated and rainfed conditions, (iii) analyze the impact of NCU on yield and income, and; (iv) document the status and implementation of Soil Health Card Scheme.

- (c) Since Kharif 2016 all the urea available in the country is in the Necm coated form. The Cumulative Requirement, Availability and Sales of Neem Coated Urea in the State of Bihar in the current year 2017-18 (upto November, 2017) are 13.90 LMT, 12.77 LMT and 11.95 LMT respectively.

Relief package for families of farmers who committed suicide

2102. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government intends to reinstitute a relief package for families of farmers who commit suicide in the most suicide-prone districts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of any relief measures being undertaken for families of farmers who have committed suicide since 2014?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) No Sir. However, the State Governments provide relief to families that face farmer suicides. As per information available from the States, the details of relief etc. being provided are as follows:

- State Government of Maharashtra gives *ex-gratia* relief of ₹ 1.00 lakh to the heirs of the deceased farmer. The three norms of eligibility for *ex-gratia* are crop failure, indebtedness and harassment due to inability to pay agriculture related loans.
- The Punjab Government provides ₹ 3.00 lakh compensation to victims' family.
- Government of Andhra Pradesh provides ₹ 5.00 lakh compensation to the family members of the deceased farmer. Out of which ₹ 1.50 lakh is one time settlement to wipe off loans/liabilities and ₹ 3.50 lakh towards rehabilitation of the family.
- The Government of Telangana makes *ex-gratia* payment of ₹ 5.00 lakh to the family of the deceased farmer for rehabilitation of the family and ₹ 1.00 lakh as a onetime settlement to wipe off all liabilities of the families of the deceased farmers.
- In Karnataka an amount of ₹ 5.00 lakh relief is given to the deceased family and the children of the deceased get free education up to post graduation including hostel facilities.

Research on growing paddy with less water

2103. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of rice varieties available in the country;
- (b) whether any research has been conducted to grow paddy with less water; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Sir, the research efforts of National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising Indian Council of Agricultural