

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to make the selection examination of Agriculture Scientists more transparent and to select the deserving Scientists; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Production of wheat

2. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for wheat in the country will reach 140 million tonnes by 2050, according to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country has so far recorded huge growth in wheat production, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Sir, at 5.25 per cent growth rate in national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), it is estimated that the demand for wheat will reach 140 million tonnes by 2050. In case of high growth rate in national GDP (at 7 per cent), the demand for wheat may go up to 150 million tonnes by 2050.

(b) There has been a significant progress in wheat production in the country during past one decade (2006-07 to 2016-17). The production of wheat increased from 75.81 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 98.38 million tonnes in 2016-17 at a compound growth rate of 2.7 per cent per annum.

Post Harvest Losses

3. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is one of the top countries for the losses of agricultural commodities during post harvesting period, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the effective and concrete measures Government has taken or proposes to take to substantially reduce losses of post harvesting agri commodities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) As per Report

(2015) on “Assessment of Quantitative Harvest and Post-Harvest Losses of Major Crops and Commodities in India” prepared by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the harvest and post-harvest losses for agriculture commodities range from 4.65-5.99% for cereals, 6.36-8.41% for pulses, 3.08-9.96% for oilseeds, 6.7-15.88% for fruits and 4.58-12.44% for vegetables. The total estimated economic value of quantitative loss was found to the tune of ₹ 92651 crore at average annual prices of 2014. There is no Authentic data available on Global ranking of India as one of the top countries in terms of post-harvest losses of agricultural commodities.

(b) The Government has taken number of measures to develop the post-harvest and marketing infrastructure for cleaning, grading storage, cold chain logistics, etc. with the objectives of reducing the post-harvest losses. Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 promoted by Government of India for adoption by the States also aims at promoting investment in post-harvest infrastructure and encouraging integration of farmers directly with end buyers which will help in reducing number of inter mediations and thereby reducing post-harvest losses. Various Schemes of the Government such as Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), sub-schemes of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) and Venture Capital Assistance (VCA) under Integrated Scheme of Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) as well as Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) aims at promoting post-harvest and marketing infrastructure in the country.

Further, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Government of India is carrying out Research and Development activities towards development of machines, tools and technologies for scientific storage, post-harvest processing and development of value chain for agricultural commodities to minimize the losses. In addition to above, programmes/ activities relating to capacity building in value chain and development in post-harvest engineering and technology by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and CCS National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (CCS NIAM), Jaipur aims at reducing the post-harvest losses.

Suicide by farmers

4. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any comprehensive policy to address the issue of increasing number of farmers suicide in the country; if so, the details thereof;