

Government is impressing upon the States at various platforms for bidding/notification for longer period. Many States are now floating bids for longer periods say one year or more and even up to three years.

(e) There is a two pronged strategy for use of technology in PMFBY. Firstly, the scheme will be administered through National Crop Insurance Portal on which all stakeholders have been integrated to facilitate realtime information flow and service delivery through better coordination, transparency and auto-administration of the scheme. Secondly, for accurate assessment of yield loss, risk classification, rationalization of Crop Cutting Experiments etc. cutting edge technology viz. Remote sensing Imager-through satellites find Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV/DRONE), smartphone/CCE Agri App are being deployed.

Implementation of e-Pashudhan Haat Scheme

1939. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched an e-market portal namely, e-Pashudhan Haat, for bovine germplasm for connecting breeds and farmers of indigenous bovine breeds;

(b) if so, the benefits of the said scheme to the farmers; and

(c) the details of the progress on e-Pashudhan Haat at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Government has launched e-Pashu Haat portal (www.epashuhaat.gov.in) for connecting breeders and farmers of indigenous breeds. Through the portal farmers can obtain information on location of quality indigenous germplasm in the form live animals, semen doses and embryos. This portal is playing crucial role in development and conservation of indigenous breeds. As on date complete information along with pedigree and productivity details on availability of 80,433 live animals, 80.36 million semen doses and 364 embryos is available on the portal (as on 31.07.2018).

Benefit to farmer by increasing ethanol mixture in petrol

†1940. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is making effort to extend the benefit to sugarcane farmers by increasing the level of ethanol mixture in petrol;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard, so far;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that once upon a time farming of sugarcane was being done on large scale in Bihar; and
- (d) whether Government would make efforts to restart the closed sugar mills by promoting farming of sugarcane in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) The Government, through Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), is implementing Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme under which, OMCs sell ethanol blended petrol with 10% ethanol in petrol. Realization from ethanol is also one of the components in revenue of sugar mills / distilleries, this also affects the capability of sugar industry to pay farmers dues. Following steps have been taken by the Government to increase the availability of ethanol for blending in petrol to benefit sugarcane farmers:

- (i) In December, 2014, the Government re-introduced administered price mechanism for procurement of ethanol by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).
 - (ii) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has fixed the price of ethanol derived from C-heavy molasses at ₹ 43.46 per litre and B-heavy molasses/sugarcane juice at ₹ 47.13 per litre for ethanol supply year 2018-19 in view of actual Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugar for sugar season 2018-19 declared by the Government.
 - (iii) The Government has introduced 6% Interest Subvention Scheme to infuse ₹ 1332 crore for augmenting and enhancing ethanol production capacity.
 - (iv) The Government has notified the National Policy on Biofuels 2018 on 8.6.2018 which *inter-alia* allows B-heavy molasses and sugarcane juice for production of ethanol for blending with petrol.
- (c) Sugarcane was grown in an area of 1.62 lakh ha. in Bihar during 1970-71 which was reduced to 0.94 lakh ha. in 2000-01. However it has increased to 2.43 lakh ha. during 2017-18. Area, production and yield of sugarcane in Bihar during last five decades and current year is given below:

Year	Area (lakh ha.)	Production (lakh tonnes)	Yield (tonnes/ha.)
1970-71	1.62	62.09	38.35
1980-81	1.10	34.80	31.41
1990-91	1.48	78.05	52.49
2000-01	0.94	39.87	42.64
2010-11	2.48	127.63	51.46
2017-18*	2.43	165.11	67.95

*3rd Advance Estimates

(d) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing Sugarcane development programme under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in 13 major sugarcane growing States including Bihar from 2014-15. Under this scheme thrust has been given on promoting intercroops with sugarcane, transfer of technology through frontline demonstrations and training in order to extend benefits to the farmers. Besides NFSM, the States can support sugarcane development programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary of the State.

To restart is the sugar mill, it is the responsibility of the entrepreneur concerned to take steps to re-open / revive the closed/sick sugar mills as far as private sector is concerned and State Government/UTs concerned in the case of the public and co-operative sugar mills. The Government of India under the Sugar Development Fund (SDF), provides concessional loans for modernization/ rehabilitation of sugar plants, setting up of bagasse based cogeneration projects, production of ethanol and sugarcane development.

Registration of Agricultural Produce Market Committees under e-NAM

1941. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Agricultural Produce Market Committees which are registered with electronic National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) along with the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is about to reach its target of enrolment of 7500 such Committees and if so, the details thereof; and