

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Price Stabilisation Fund was established with the objective to tackle inflationary trends of important agri-horticultural commodities like onion, potatoes and pulses to protect the interest of consumers. However, the guidelines of the fund also provides for direct purchase of such commodities from farmers/farmer's association at farm gate/mandi, benefitting farmers.

(c) and (d) Price Stabilisation Fund is consumer centric scheme aimed at moderating the price volatility of agri-horticultural commodities for consumers.

Benefits of CCEs to farmers

340. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, most States have not made timely payments of their premium subsidy, if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(b) the number of States which have conducted Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) and submitted data to insurance companies since 2016, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise and average expenditure on conducting CCEs in each village panchayat for each crop; and

(c) the manner in which CCEs help the farmers and the number of farmers who have been benefitted from it till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) upfront premium subsidy is provided to the implementing insurance companies, which is equally shared by the Central and State Governments concerned. Timelines have been provided in the scheme for completion of different activities including payment of subsidy by the Government both Central and State. However, various States like Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Kerala, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh etc. delayed considerably the payment of their share of premium to insurance companies in one or more seasons during 2016-17 and 2017-2018 due to which settlement of claims has been delayed in these States.

(b) and (c) As per provisions of the scheme yield data arrived from the Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) is furnished by the States to concerned insurance companies

for workout and settlement of claims to farmers. Therefore, all the implementing States are required to conduct requisite number CCEs as per provisions of the scheme. These CCEs are mostly conducted in house by various departments say Revenue Department, Agriculture Department, Directorate of Economics and Statistics of concerned States individually and/or in collaboration with each other. Some States are outsourcing the conduct of CCEs. As most of the States are conducting in-house CCEs through their existing manpower, the estimation of expenditure by States is not available. However, Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Center (MNCFC) had conducted CCEs for KISAN [C(K)rop Insurance using Space technology And geo Informatics] project during 2015-16 for which the accepted rate arrived at through bidding process was ₹ 640/- per CCE. Going by that rate, conducting four CCEs per crop for per village/village panchayat as per provision of PMFBY comes to ₹ 2560/-.

Out of the total number of 572 lakh farmers covered under the scheme during 2016-17, claims based on CCEs data were paid to over 135 lakh farmers.

Scheme to promote organic farming

†341. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana has been initiated by Central Government to promote organic farming in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said yojana is proving very effective in increasing agricultural production and raising farmers' income in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Government of India has initiated the scheme "Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana" (PKVY) as a Centrally Sponsored Programme (CSP) since 2015-16 under National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) to promote organic farming in the country. The detail of the scheme is given in Statement (*See below*).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.