

Benefits of neem-coated urea

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

(a) the extent to which the introduction of neem-coated urea by Government has benefited the farmers;

(b) whether neem-coated urea has also helped to improve farm production, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the arrangements made by Government for providing neem-coated urea to the farmers easily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) As per study conducted by Agro-Economic Research Centre of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, the output and net returns were higher for the neem coated urea (NCU) than the non NCU farmers and urea cost per acre was significantly lower for NCU farmers and they benefited mainly due to reduced usage of total urea. The total input cost, yield as well as gross returns were also significantly higher for the NCU farmers. The increase in gross returns is mainly due to the yield effect rather than the price effect. The National Productivity Council study also shows that the use of Neem Coated Urea has resulted in lower consumption of fertilizer by about 4-5 per cent with lower incidence of pests and diseases with higher yields to the tune of 5-6 percentage.

(c) The Government has promoted the use of neem coated urea with a view to increase nitrogen-use efficiency, Government of India (GOI) has with effect from 25.05.2015 made it mandatory for manufacturers to produce 100% neem coated urea. Further, Government made it mandatory to coat all the imported urea with neem Oil w.e.f from December, 2015 onwards. Hence all the urea available in the country from December, 2015 onwards is neem coated. For the Rabi 2017-18 seasons, the Ministry has allocated 154.30 LMT of neem coated urea and on the basis of that the Department of Fertilizer issues the monthly supply plan. So far 117.07 LMT has been made available to the States.

Drought in the country

11. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of districts across the country have been declared drought affected, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and