

(d) whether Government has any plans to seek funds from Green Climate Fund through NABARD for the financial resources to address the issue of crop burning; and

(e) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (c) The Government has circulated National Policy for Management of Crop Residues (NPMCR)- 2014 to all the States/UTs and directions have been issued to State Governments from time to time on burning of crop residue. Government also provide financial assistance to State Governments of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan for purchasing of identified machineries *i.e.*, rotavator, happy seeder, zero till seed drill, straw reaper, rake, paddy straw chopper, shredder, mulcher, loose straw chopper, baler at subsidized rates under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) for reducing crop burning.

In addition, State Governments can take suitable measures for creation of capacity building, organization of Kisan Goshthies and spreading awareness through electronic and print media among the farmers for reducing crop burning. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has recommended various technological interventions like *in-situ* incorporation of crop residue through conservation agriculture practices, rapid composting of crop residue using microbial consortia, production of bio gas, mushroom cultivation, preparation of feed for livestock, production of bio-fuel and biochar for scientific crop residue management in the country.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has no plans to seek funds from the Green Climate Fund to address the issue of crop burning.

#### **State-specific policy initiative for farm sector**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has initiated concrete steps to double the income of farmers;

(b) if so, the details of the measures being taken to increase the income of farmers;

(c) whether Government is also contemplating on the State-specific policy initiatives for farming so that the initiative can be implemented keeping in view the State-centric problems; and

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the initiative being taken keeping in view the State of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To achieve the target of doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022, the Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. At present, nine volumes prepared by the Committee have been uploaded on the website of this Department (<http://agricoop.nic.in/doubling-farmers>) for seeking public opinion.

Parallely, the Government is aiming to reorient agriculture sector by focusing on income centeredness in addition to pure production-centeredness. In order to realise net positive returns for the farmer, schemes as follows, are being promoted and implemented in a major way through the States/UTs including Bihar, viz: Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme; Neem Coated Urea (NCU); Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY); Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY); National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM); Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY); National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). In addition, schemes relating to tree plantation (Har Medh Par Ped), Bee Keeping, Dairy and Fisheries are also implemented. All these schemes are implemented to enhance production and productivity of agriculture and thereby enhance income of farmers.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). The Commission collects and analyses data on cost of cultivation and recommends MSP. To incentivise cultivation of pulses and oilseeds in the country, Government has announced bonus for Kharif 2017-18, over and above the approved MSP. Even during last year, Government had offered bonus over and above the MSP, in the case of pulses and oilseeds.

The Government also undertakes procurement of paddy and wheat at Minimum Support Price (MSP) through Food Corporation of India (FCI). In addition, procurement of oilseeds, pulses and cotton are undertaken by central agencies at MSP under Price Support Scheme (PSS) at the request of the concerned State Government which agrees to exempt the procured commodities from levy of mandi tax and assist central nodal agencies in logistic arrangements.

Government also implements the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agriculture and horticulture products, which are perishable in nature and are not covered under PSS on the request of States/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.

(c) and (d) The Government of Bihar has already prepared an agriculture roadmap for the period of 2017-22 keeping in view State-centric problems.

#### **FDI in agriculture sector**

28. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FDI in Agriculture in Financial year 2013-14 was 910 lakh dollars, in 2014-15 was 599 lakh dollars and in 2015-16 was 846 lakh dollars, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether in the first six months of 2016-17, FDI was just 148 lakh dollars, if so, the reasons for this regular down graph in FDI in Agriculture and the details of measures taken by Government to arrest the downward trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir. FDI in Agriculture in Financial year 2013-14 was 910 lakh US dollars, in 2014-15 was 599 lakh US dollars and in 2015-16 was 846 lakh US dollars.

(b) Yes, Sir. In the first six months of 2016-17, FDI was 148 lakh US dollars. However the total FDI during the year 2016-17 was 764.3 lakh US dollars. Government has recently permitted 100 per cent FDI in Single Brand Product Retail Trading through automatic route. This initiative is aimed at attracting investments in production and improving the availability of goods for the consumers.

#### **Direct linking of agricultural institutions with farmers**

29. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new Agriculture as well as Veterinary Medicine and Fisheries Universities or deemed to be Universities in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of them opened after 2014 along with the details thereof;

(c) the total strength of students enrolled and qualified faculty recruited in these new institutions so far;