

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;