

(d) Government has increased MSP of paddy (common) and paddy (Grade 'A') to ₹ 1550/- per quintal and ₹ 1590/- per quintal respectively for 2017-18 season from ₹ 1470/- per quintal and ₹ 1510/- per quintal respectively of 2016-17 season on 7th June, 2017. The MSP fixed by the Government for 2017-18 for paddy provides adequate return over all India weighted average cost of production including family labour (A2+FL) of ₹ 1117/- per quintal as projected by CACP. Cost of production varies in different States on account of difference in levels of irrigation, resource endowment, farm mechanisation, land holding size, yield of crops etc.

CACP uses all India weighted average cost of production while making its recommendations on MSP and recommends uniform MSP which is applicable for all States. Even though there is variation in cost of production among States, the MSP fixed by Central Government for 2017-18 season provides adequate returns over weighted average cost of production (A2+FL) of ₹ 1327/- per quintal for Odisha as estimated by CACP. The higher cost of production of paddy in Odisha is due to lower yield and higher cost of human, bullock and machine labour and higher expenditure on fertilizer and manure.

Ill-effects of indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers

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

(a) whether Government has studied the fact that indiscriminate use of urea and other chemical fertilizers in Haryana and Punjab has considerably increased the number of cancer patients therein; and

(b) if so, the manner in which Government is providing training to the farmers to use urea, other chemical fertilizers and pesticides in the minimal quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) Government has not carried out any such study in any States including Haryana and Punjab.

The following steps have been taken to provide training/awareness to farmers to use urea, other chemical fertilizers and pesticides in the minimal quantity:—

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme is being implemented to assist all State Governments to evaluate fertility in all farm holdings across the country and issue soil health cards to farmers in a cycle of every two year. Soil health

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

card provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

- (ii) Under Soil Health Management (SHM), financial assistance is provided to States for training of farmers on judicious use of fertilizers.
- (iii) Government is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, biofertilizers etc.) of plant nutrients for judicious use of chemical fertilizers to improve soil health and quality. In addition, split application and placement of fertilizers, use of slow releasing N-fertilizers and nitrification inhibitors, growing leguminous crops and use of Resource Conservation Technologies (RCTs) are also advocated.
- (iv) Government is implementing “Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach” scheme wherein, Farmers Field Schools are organized to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management approach and to use chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels and leaflets.

Ending the monopoly of APMC

821. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to end Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) monopoly with a view to liberalize the trade in farm produces and aid better price realisation for farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the meeting of Chief Ministers has been convened recently to deliberate on the matter; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) The Government has drafted a model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 which provides for progressive agricultural marketing reforms including setting up markets in private sector, direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, de-regulation of fruits and vegetables, e-trading, single point levy of market fee, issue of unified single trading license in the State, declaring warehouses/silos/cold storage as market sub-yards and Market Yards of National