

Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee on 13.04.2016 to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income and recommend a strategy to achieve the same by the year 2022.

Use of drone cameras

*239. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has given green signal for the use of 'drone' cameras (UAV/NETRA), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted on the use of drones, if so, the details of the research conducted along with the results thereof; and

(c) the details regarding the additional financial burden, which the Ministry will have to bear, on the use of this technology on monthly/yearly/Zone/division-wise basis?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Instructions have been issued to all Zonal Railways and Public Sector Units (PSUs) for using Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) as an efficient tool for mapping and monitoring of transportation corridors, projects etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Drones are planned to be used as a technological upgradation for effective monitoring of transport corridors and projects as and when needed. As such, benefits and additional funds burden cannot be quantified.

Checking the spread of BG-III cotton cultivation

*240. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that unauthorised cultivation of herbicide tolerant cotton seed, popularly known as BG-III cotton, is spreading across the country, which is harmful to the biodiversity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any State Government has complained to the Central Government to check the spread of BG-III cotton, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any action has been taken by Government in this regard, the details thereof; and