

Life Sciences Ltd., Bangalore and its affiliates for production and marketing of DHM-4 for the purpose of its wider spread and commercial cultivation by farmers.

(d) The NDDB has informed that the Management Committee for the Research Project on Rapeseed Mustard, which included representatives from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and University of Delhi South Campus approved the commercialization of the DMH 4 through Metahelix Life Sciences Private Limited, Bangalore. As the cultivation of these hybrids required significant extension work in terms of educating farmers on the package of practices to be followed, private seed companies argued that unless exclusivity is provided it would be difficult for them to invest in the business. Under the License Agreement, NDDB has received royalty of ₹ 7.91 lakhs for the years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

(e) ICAR is not aware of any conflict of interest issue.

Settlement of farmers' claim under Fasal Bima Yojana

†2419. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to modify the Fasal Bima Yojana to make it more remunerative for farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the precautions taken by Government to make the said scheme effective for protecting the farmers from the burden of premium and the losses caused by crop-damage;

(c) whether there is inordinate delay in settlement of farmers' claims; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government for speedy disposal of the claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) launched from April, 2016 provides comprehensive crop insurance from pre-sowing to post harvest against non-preventable natural risks at extremely low maximum premium rate of 2% for Kharif crops, 1.5% for Rabi Crop and 5% payable by farmers for annual commercial/horticultural crops, the balance of actuarial/bidder premium being shared by the Central and State Government on 50: 50 basis. Further, the cap on premium, which had earlier led to reduction in sum insured has been removed and sum insured has been made equal to the Scale of Finance, thereby

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

providing maximum risk coverage to the farmers. In an effort to provide more realistic assessment of losses, the unit area of insurance has been reduced from Tehsil/district level to village/village panchayat level for major crops and to individual farm level for localised risks of hailstorm, landslide and inundation. While settlement of claims is done on the basis of yield loss assessment at the end of season, some measure of immediate relief is also provided to insured farmers in case of adverse seasonal conditions during the crop season. Due to all these features the scheme is providing maximum risk cover to affected farmers and there is no proposal presently to modify the scheme.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the delay in settlement of claims under erstwhile Crop Insurance Schemes, activity-wise strict timelines were prescribed under PMFBY. Further, the scheme is tremendously technology driven to facilitate end to end solutions. Provision has been made for use of Remote Sensing Technology, Smartphones, Mobile app and Drones for quick estimation of crop losses. In addition, all stakeholders have been integrated on a common crop insurance portal to ensure seamless flow of information and services. The Government is pursuing with the States and other stakeholders to adopt the technology features at the earliest so that timely claim settlement is ensured. Due to all such measures time taken to settle claims has generally been reduced to an average of within two months after receipt of yield data from State Governments. However, this does not include claims that are outstanding due to exceptional reasons such as delay in receipt of State share of subsidy, discrepancy in yield data, unavailability of farmer account details etc.

Contract farming for raising efficiency in agriculture sector

2420. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to experiment with contract farming to help for developing the marketing links that are necessary for raising the efficiency of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether such a proposal would be considered in the near future to deal with various problems relating to farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) In order to help develop the marketing links necessary for raising the efficiency of agriculture,