

Policy for contract farming

2443. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any regulatory and policy framework for contract farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government to integrate farmers with agro-industries so as to ensure better price realization for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government is formulating a progressive, holistic and facilitative model Contract Farming Act with provisions for integrating food processors with farmers with an aim to ensure better price realization to the farmers for their produce besides reducing post-harvest losses and incentivizing the private sector processors to invest in processing activities.

Comments of various stakeholders have been solicited on the draft model Contract Farming Act including placing it on the website inviting comments of the public.

- (c) The Government through Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) schemes, is integrating farmers with Agro Industries. Further, the adoption of model Contract Farming Act by States will also ensure integration of farmers with agro-industries so as to ensure better price realization for their produce.

Role of soil health card in agricultural production

2444. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether soil health plays a vital role in ensuring agricultural production in a sustainable manner;
- (b) whether Soil Health Cards have been distributed to the farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana advocating the farmers to adopt soil test-based fertilizers; and