

Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan' (PM-AASHA). Under PM-AASHA, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare implements the Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of pulses, oilseeds and copra. For oilseeds, DAC&FW also implements the Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS).

There exists a transparent and uniform policy for procurement by Government Agencies. Under this policy, wheat and paddy offered by farmers, within the stipulated period and conforming to the specifications (Fair Average Quality norms) prescribed in advance by Government of India, are purchased at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the State Government agencies and Food Corporation of India (FCI) for Central Pool. Coarse grains are procured by State Governments as per the procurement plan prepared in consultation with FCI and approved by the Central Government.

(c) to (e) Finance Minister in Budget Speech for 2018-19 made announcement that NITI Aayog, in consultation with Central and State Governments, will put in place a fool-proof mechanism so that farmers will get adequate price for their produce. A meeting of States/Union Territories (UTs) and Central Ministries to discuss about the mechanism of implementation of MSP to agricultural commodities was held on 9.03.2018 under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. As an outcome of consultation with stakeholders, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare rolled out new schemes *i.e.* Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) for procurement of produce for crops notified for MSP from farmers.

Merger of CMFRI, Mumbai Research Centre with CIFE

2562. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai Research Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) is likely to be merged with Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is a plan to merge CMFRI, Mumbai Research Centre with any other institute;

(c) whether this merger may hamper its current function of providing research support to fishermen and coastal communities of the State, if so, the details thereof, and the reasons for the proposed merger;

(d) whether fishermen of Maharashtra have opposed the merger; and

(e) if so, how the Ministry would address their concerns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Final decision has not been taken to merge Mumbai Research Centre Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) with Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) Mumbai.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Question does not arise.
- (d) Yes, some representations have been received.
- (e) Question does not arise.

Benefits to farmers under crop insurance policy

2563. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of farmers who have been benefitted through the crop insurance policy in the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether there have been instances of farmers giving up their crop insurance;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to promote the scheme, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether crop insurance would be considered under doubling farmers' income scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTAM RUPALA): (a) After review of the ongoing crop insurance scheme and with the view to include more risks under crop insurance cover and to make it more comprehensive and affordable to farmers, the flagship scheme of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched in April, 2016. State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of enrollments and number of farmers benefitted under PMFBY, since its inception in Kharif, 2016 to Kharif, 2017 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Both loanee and non-loanee farmers are enrolled under the scheme. Loanee farmers are those who avail the Kisan Credit Card/Crop Loan for notified crops and they are mandatorily covered under the scheme. Participation of non-loanee farmers in the scheme is voluntary.