

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of Mandis integrated
11.	Puducherry	2
12.	Rajasthan	25
13.	Tamil Nadu	23
14.	Telangana	47
15.	Uttar Pradesh	100
16.	Uttarakhand	16
17.	Chandigarh	1
18.	West Bengal	17
TOTAL		585

Amendment to Seeds ACT

2570. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has embarked on amendment of the Seeds Act with a view to safeguard the farmers from duplicate seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the changes being included in the list of amendments and sops being given to the farmers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, Government had introduced the Seed Bill in Parliament during December, 2004.

The changes include under New seed Bill are compulsory registration of new varieties, enhancement of penalties, labeling of expected performance, seed health test, protection of rights of farmers, compensation in the case of failure of crops and ban of genetic use restriction technology (terminator technology).

Incorporation of Bapudham Milk Producer Company Ltd.

2571. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board and its subsidiary companies had arranged for incorporation of Bapudham Milk Producer Company Ltd. on 12 April, 2017 in Motihari, East Champaran, Bihar; and

(b) whether within less than 3.5 months of its incorporation, the National Dairy Development Board sanctioned an amount of ₹ 33.39 crore to the said milk producing company, including Central Government grants under the National Dairy Plan (NDP) scheme amounting ₹ 22.28 crore and subject to the condition that the said company will contribute ₹ 11.7 crore, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) and (b) The milk producers of East Champaran district of Bihar came together to incorporate a producer company which was facilitated by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and incorporated on 12 April, 2017. The Board of Bapudham Milk Producer Company submitted a proposal to seek grant-in-aid under NDP I for implementation of Village Based Milk Procurement System. The project was approved with outlay of ₹ 3263.49 lakh (including Bapudham Milk Producer Company's contribution of ₹ 1107.54 lakh). The project targets to benefit 50,000 milk producers members in 1000 villages covering East Champaran, West Chaparan and Gopalganj districts.

Investment in agricultural research

2572. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that investment in agricultural research would help to reduce dependency on imports and add to the export capacity of the country;

(b) whether Government has designed an action plan to attract investment in agricultural research; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir. India with large and diverse agriculture is among the world's leading producers of cereals, millets, sugar, fruits and vegetables, spices and seafood products. India is supporting 17.84% world population with merely 2.4% of land and 4.0% of water resources. Hence, continuous investment efforts towards enhancing productivity, reducing pre and post-harvest losses, processing and value addition, development of technology and infrastructure is necessary for Indian agriculture. India has made substantial progress in agriculture by increasing production of cereals, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, fruits and vegetables and milk, and fishes over past six decades. Food grains production has increased to 284.83 million tonnes (Mt) in 2017-18 from 50.8 Mt in 1950-51, an increase of 5.6 times. Production of other agricultural commodities also increased