

(c) Agriculture being a State subject, the State Government is primarily responsible for the growth and development of agriculture sector and developing perspective plans for their respective States and ensuring effective implementation of the programmes/schemes. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Schemes/Programmes. The details of the States which spend 15 per cent or more of their total expenditure on agriculture are not maintained centrally.

Impact of groundwater pollution on organic farming

632. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all organic food in the market is not 100 per cent organic, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether groundwater pollution is one of the major causes of chemicals seeping into crops, raising doubts on how any organic food is produced in India, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether prices of organic produce are on the higher side in comparison to non-organic produce, if so, details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government plans to support production and marketing of organic produce in the country to reduce their cost, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Any organic food manufactured, packed, sold, offered for sale, marketed or otherwise distributed in the country is regulated as per the provisions of Food Safety and Standards (Organic Food) Regulations, 2017 which were notified on 29.12.2017. These regulations require Organic Food to comply with the provisions of National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) or Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). However, to support small original organic producer or producer organisation, those with annual turnover not exceeding 12 lakhs per annum have been exempted from certification through NPOP or PGS. The Organic food covered through these regulations should bear FSSAI organic logo *i.e.* Jaivik Bharat Logo.

(b) No such report has been brought to the notice of Ministry of Agriculture, GOI.

(c) There is difference in the prices of organic produce compared to that of non organic produce because of the farming being labour intensive, reduction in yield in initial years and also the procedural cost involved in organic certification.

(d) Dedicated schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) have been initiated since 2015 for supporting the organic farming in the country. Under these schemes, support is provided for cluster/FPO/FPC formation, capacity building of farmers, input procurement for production, post harvest infrastructure development and marketing. Organic farming is also promoted under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Implementation of PMFBY in Andhra Pradesh

633. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of insurance companies which have been designated as 'Implementing Agency' of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of the premium collected by insurance companies during each Rabi and Kharif season from farmers as well from State Government since the inception of the scheme; and

(c) the details of compensation paid to the farmers in the State of Andhra Pradesh during each Rabi and Kharif season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) 18 General Insurance Companies including all the 5 Government companies, empanelled for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), are eligible to work as implementing agency, in any of the State/Union Territory including Andhra Pradesh implementing the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). However, the selection of company is made by the concerned State Government through bidding process. Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC), HDFC-ERGO General Insurance Company Ltd. (DHFC-ERGO), Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. (OIC), National Insurance Company Ltd. (NIC) and SBI General Insurance Company Ltd. had been selected by the Andhra Pradesh Government for implementation of Crop Insurance Schemes in Kharif 2018 season. For Rabi 2018-19 season, AIC and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd. have been selected for implementation of these Schemes in the State. Season-wise details of premium collected by insurance companies and claims paid in Andhra Pradesh are given in the table:—