

for setting up of Custom Hiring Centre is also available at the rate of 40% of the project cost to individual farmer upto a project cost of ₹60 lakh and 80% to the group of farmers upto a project cost of ₹ 10 lakh. A special consideration for the farmers of North Eastern Region (NER) is available, 100% assistance limited to ₹1.25 lakh is provided to NER farmers for procurement of various agricultural machinery and equipments and 95% subsidy upto a project cost of ₹ 10 lakh is provided to group of NER farmers for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres.

A special Scheme to support the efforts of the Governments of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and the NCT of Delhi to address air pollution due to stubble burning and to subsidize machinery for the farmers for in-situ management of crop residue, a new Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi' (CRM) for the period from 2018-19 to 2019-20 has been also launched.

Under the above scheme (CRM), assistance to farmers for procurement of various in-situ management agricultural machinery and equipments is available at the rate of 50%. The assistance for setting up of Custom Hiring Centre is also available at the rate of 80% of the project cost to individual farmer upto a project cost of ₹75 lakh.

During the period 2014-15 to 2018-19, under SMAM scheme, total 962528 various agricultural machinery were distributed and 13899 Custom Hiring Centers established.

Under CRM scheme, during 2018-19, 32831 various agricultural machinery were distributed and 7444 Custom Hiring Centers established.

Effects of indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides

†3043. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that due to indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides by farmers, the fertility of land is getting depleted, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether humans, animals and other creatures are being afflicted with various types of diseases on account of chemical fertilizers and pesticides being used in fields and many animals as well as birds species are on the verge of becoming extinct; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether Government has formulated any action plan to minimise the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in the agricultural fields?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) There is no depletion of fertility of land with balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. However, indiscriminate and imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may result into multi-nutrient deficiencies.

(b) Indiscriminate and imbalanced use of fertilizers may pollute the underground water which may be hazardous to all living beings including humans, animals, birds etc. Similarly, indiscriminate use of pesticides may result in acute health problems, such as abdominal pain, dizziness, headaches, nausea, vomiting, as well as skin and eye problems.

(c) Steps taken to minimize the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides are:

- (i) Government is advocating soil test based Integrated Nutrient Management envisaging conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of nutrients through Soil Health Card scheme.
- (ii) Financial assistance to States is provided for setting up mechanized fruit/vegetable market waste and agro waste compost production units and setting up/strengthening of bio-fertilizer /bio pesticides production units to promote availability of organic sources of plant nutrients and bio-fertilizers.
- (iii) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is advocating split application and placement of fertilizers, use of slow releasing N-fertilizers and nitrification inhibitors.
- (iv) Two dedicated schemes namely Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) and Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) have been launched since 2015 to encourage organic farming which avoid the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Under these schemes farmers are provided assistance for on farm production and off farm procurement of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides.
- (v) The Insecticides Act, 1968 has been enacted to regulate the import, manufacture, sale and use of insecticides. As per the act, pesticides are

registered after testing for their bio-efficacy, toxicity and safety to human beings, animals and environment.

- (vi) Government is propagating the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) have been established across the country which organizes IPM orientation programs.

Assistance to drought-affected States

3044. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that several parts of the country are affected by severe drought;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard;
- (c) whether Government is providing financial assistance to drought-affected States, especially Karnataka;
- (d) if so, the details of such assistance given to various States during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (e) whether Government has any plan to enhance the compensation/financial assistance to drought-affected States; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) No State has submitted any Memorandum seeking financial assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) during Kharif 2019 season. As per second India Meteorological Department (IMD) Long Range Forecast, released on 31.05.2019, rainfall over the country as a whole for the 2019 South-West Monsoon Season (June to September) is likely to be NORMAL (96% to 104% of the Long Period Average). However, advisories have been issued to all States/ Union Territories before the onset of Monsoon 2019 season for reviewing the States'