

Judicious use of pesticides

3047. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any assessment has been made by Government regarding losses incurred due to improper use of pesticides and insecticides;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government proposes to formulate any scheme to educate farmers about judicious use of pesticides and insecticides; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) No such assessment has been made by the Government.

(c) and (d) The Department is implementing 'Sub-Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine' Scheme. Under which the Department, *inter alia*, has established 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) across the country. These CIPMCs propagate the use of Integrated Pest Management and recommend judicious use of chemical pesticide. The CIPMCs, *inter alia*, releases bio-control agents in the fields, conducts Farmers Field Schools and organizes IPM orientation programs. In the last three years, 5957.25 million of bio-control agents have been released, 2142 nos. of Farmers Field Schools and 391 nos. of IPM orientation programs have been organized by the CIPMCs.

In addition, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) conducts demonstration trials using bio-control agents, training programs and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in 29 centres across the country to create awareness amongst farmers.

Establishment of automatic weather stations under NADP

3048. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has established automatic weather stations under National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) in various States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of automatic weather stations established under the NADP in the last three years along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per details made available by States, State Government of Odisha has established 145 number of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)/National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) during 2016-17 with financial assistance of ₹ 383.298 lakh. Besides, Government of Andhra Pradesh has also sanctioned one Advanced Centre for Agro Climate Research and Weather Forecasting Centre during 2017-18 at Regional Agricultural Research Station Tirupathi with an outlay of ₹ 240.94 lakh under this scheme with a time line of 3 years for its implementation.

Employment opportunities in agriculture sector

3049. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether employment generation avenues have declined in agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has worked on any action plan for the creation of additional employment opportunities in agriculture sector; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) As per the latest Survey on 'Employment and Unemployment Situation in India' conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), the estimated workforce engaged in agriculture and allied sector has come down from 24.74 crore in 2009-10 to 23.18 crore in 2011-12, i.e., about 6 per cent.