

**Establishment of Indian Institute of Pulse Research in Odisha**

3052. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether the Central Government will take necessary steps for early establishment of Indian Institute of Pulse Research at Bhubaneswar in Odisha as the site for establishment of this Institute has already been visited by the Central Team?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): Yes. For this, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar and ICAR- Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur has been signed on 26th February, 2019.

**National policy on loan waiver for farmers**

3053. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is aware of the fact that the Government of Odisha has sent a proposal for making a national policy on loan waiver for farmers; and

(b) if so, the actions that have been taken by the Central Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Odisha's proposal has been received. Proposals from State Governments are accorded priority and the issues are decided taking into account the policy regime and resource availability.

**High level of Aflatoxin in groundnut and maize**

3054. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government is drawn to the reports that the groundnut and maize produced in the country are having high levels of aflatoxin and unfit for human consumption according to international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government has taken to educate the farmers as well as consumers regarding use of groundnut and educating farmers to produce aflatoxin-free crops?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) As informed by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), during the year 2019, total six number of rapid alert has been received from the European Union (EU) highlighting Aflatoxin level more than the prescribed limit (fixed by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India) in the export consignment of groundnuts. However, no rapid alert/complaint of Aflatoxin in Maize consignment has been reported during the same period.

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) conducts training programs, demonstration, and field visits to educate farmers on preventing and reducing aflatoxin contamination. Messages and information is also disseminated to farmers as to the steps they have to take to prevent aflatoxin contamination. Besides Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs) and Good Management Practices (GMPs) including storage practices have also been developed and disseminated among all the Stakeholders by the Directorate of Groundnut Research.

#### **Use of antibiotics in animal husbandry**

3055. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the regulatory structure for use of antibiotics in animal husbandry in the country;

(b) whether there are any restrictions on the use of antibiotics in animals such as antibiotics for growth promotion, antibiotics for disease prevention without clinical diagnosis and antibiotics that are critically important for human medicine;

(c) whether there are re-import of antibiotics for animal husbandry; and

(d) whether the country has complied with WHO's guidelines on use of medically important antimicrobials in food-producing animals, if so, the details thereof including restriction of the above-mentioned classes of antibiotics and if not, the reasons therefor?