

- (v) Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE);
- (vi) Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP);
- (vii) Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM);
- (viii) Sub-Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine (SMPPQ);
- (ix) Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Census, Economics and Statistics;
- (x) Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation;
- (xi) Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Marketing (ISAM); and
- (12) National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A).

Expansion of mandate of NCDC

3824. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government would consider to expand the mandate of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to include Farmer Producer Organisations and Agriculture Production Clusters to enable lending by NCDC to these groups as the State of Odisha have taken a massive thrust on promotion of Agriculture Production Clusters in 40 tribal blocks in 12 districts of Odisha, which would be involved in production, processing, value addition and linkage to market infrastructures?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

Sowing of banned GM crops in Maharashtra

3825. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that farmers of Maharashtra are bent upon to sow banned GM crops in the State as they expect it to be more profitable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take to persuade the farmers of the State not to go for GM crops but rather sow traditional crops and to provide them remunerative prices for their crops?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) As per State Government of Maharashtra, no instances of illegal cultivation of Genetically-Modified (GM) Herbicide-Tolerant (HT) cotton have come to notice. However some cases of sale of illegal Bt. Cotton Seeds (HTBT) have been reported in the districts of Nagpur, Chandrapur, Parbhani, Nandurbar, Yavatmal, Bhandara and Gadchiroli of Maharashtra State during this season. These seeds have been seized by State authorities.

The Government through its outreach programme has been highlighting to the farmers about the consequences of cultivating HT-BT cotton that has not been approved by the regulatory authority and is discouraging farmers to adopt these seeds. It is also demonstrating the cultivation of Bt. cotton varieties and also non-Bt varieties to reduce production costs and improve profit.

Mission to double farmers' income

3826. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of doubling the farmers' income scheme;
- (b) the steps proposed by Government towards achieving this goal;
- (c) whether it is feasible for Government or whether Government machinery is ready to implement them in due course;
- (d) whether Government is planning to increase agricultural land to achieve this goal; and
- (e) whether Government is planning to take help of foreign expertise in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (c) The Government had constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee in April, 2016 to examine issues relating to "Doubling of Farmers Income" and recommend strategies to achieve the same. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government in September, 2018. The Committee on Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI) recognises agriculture as a value led enterprise and has identified seven major sources of growth, viz., improvement in crop productivity; improvement in livestock productivity; resource use efficiency or savings in the cost of production; increase in the cropping intensity; diversification towards high value crops; improvement