

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

in real prices received by farmers; and shift from farm to non-farm occupations. Several initiatives have already been rolled out on the basis of recommendations of DFI Committee. Details of which is given in Statement (*See below*). An Empowered Body has also been set up to monitor and review the progress against the recommendations.

All programmes of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare are aligned to achieving these recommendations.

(d) Agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments undertake development of perspective plans and ensure effective implementation of the programmes/schemes. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Schemes/Programmes.

The subject relating to Land and its management falls within the jurisdiction of States as per Entry 18 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The role of the Central Government in the field of land reforms is only of an advisory nature. Further, it is also the endeavour of the Government to increase productivity and resource use efficiency so as to make agriculture sustainable.

(e) Does not arise in view of the (d) above.

Statement

Details of initiatives rolled out on the basis of recommendations of DFI Committee

The schemes of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is mandated with improving agriculture in the country, in order to *inter alia* enhance the income of the farmers through various interventions and schemes such as:—

- (i) Distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be optimized.
- (ii) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) - Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged, for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity.
- (iii) "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" for promoting organic farming.
- (iv) Launch of e-NAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic online trading platform.

- (v) A crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) providing insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances, with low premium contribution by farmers for risk mitigation has been launched.
- (vi) Under "Har Medh Par Ped", agro forestry is being promoted for additional income.
- (vi) Giving a major boost for the farmers income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all Kharif and Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production.
- (viii) Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, the Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)' aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. This is an unprecedented step taken by Government of India to protect the farmers' income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.
- (ix) Bee keeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production as an additional source of income of farmers.
- (x) Rashtriya Gokul Mission to enhance milk production and productivity of bovines and to make milk production more remunerative to the farmers.
- (xi) National Livestock Mission to increase productivity and genetic improvement of livestock.
- (xii) Foreseeing high potential in fisheries sector, a Blue Revolution with multi-dimensional activities mainly focusing on fisheries production, both inland and marine is being implemented.
- (xiii) Extending the reach of institutional credit to more and more farmers is priority area of the Government and to achieve this goal, the Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment.

- (xiv) Government sets annual target for the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, banks have been consistently surpassing the annual target. The current year's agriculture credit flow target has been set at ₹ 13.50 lakh crore.
- (xv) Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2018-19, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against negotiable receipts, the benefit of interest subvention will be available to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan.
- (xvi) The Government has approved for giving the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers practicing animal husbandry and fisheries related activities and has also decided to extend the Interest Subvention Facilities to such categories of farmers.
- (xvii) With a view to provide income support to all farmers' families across the country, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government started a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). The scheme aims to provide a payment of ₹ 6000/- per year, in three 4-monthly installments of ₹ 2000/- to the farmers, families, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income groups. About 14.5 crore farmers are expected to be covered under the scheme.
- (xviii) Further with a view to provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood, the Government has decided to implement another new Central Sector Scheme for providing old age pension to these farmers. Under this Scheme, a minimum fixed pension of ₹ 3000/- will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years. The scheme aims to cover around 5 crore beneficiaries in the first three years. It would be a voluntary and contributory pension scheme, with entry age of 18 to 40 years. The Government has approved a budgetary provision of ₹ 10774.50 crore for the scheme till March, 2022.