drought affected areas. There is a provision of distribution of seeds of contingency crops such as pulses, millets, oilseeds, which are drought hardy and survive with minimal available water in rain fed/ drought affected areas under National Food Security Mission (NFSM).

In the eventuality of natural calamities, the State Governments are empowered to initiate necessary relief measures from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), which is readily available with them. Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), on the receipt of Memorandum from State Governments and in accordance with extant norms and procedures.

Use of artificial intelligence in agriculture

3836. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether artificial intelligence could be used in agriculture;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and in what manner it would transform agricultural sector;

(c)   whether Government is planning to include artificial intelligence in agriculture;

(d)   if so, the details thereof; and

(e)   if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be used in multiple domains of agriculture such as weather, crop and price forecasting, yield estimation, etc. AI can leverage in providing information and advisory services to farmers for increasing production and productivity and taking preventive measures against pests. Further, it may reduce the cost of production through precise application of agricultural inputs like fertilizer, chemicals, irrigation, etc.

(c) to (e) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, through various agencies has carried out many pilot studies for optimization of Crop Cutting Experiments, in which AI was used to optimization and yield estimation.