

Lease of farmland to tenant farmers

805. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tenant farmers have to continue farming as they do not have the knowledge/skill of any other work, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the farmers lease the land between ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 per acre; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken/being taken by Government to regulate lease price of farmland and provide bank loans to tenant farmers to contain suicides?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) There is no evidence to suggest that tenant farmers have to continue farming as they do not have the knowledge/skill of any other work.

(b) and (c) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) does not maintain this information. However, with the objectives to provide production technology, services and knowledge to the farmers including lessee, tenant and share croppers, for enhancing productivity and to enable purchase of produce by contract farming sponsor/buyer at pre-agreed prices, Department after consultation with States, circulated The Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2018. Government is also promoting formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) with technical handholding and financial support to leverage collectivization in scientific and organized farming including marketing.

Further, there is provision in Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) scheme to provide loans to the tenant farmers through joint liability groups.

Effect of crop diversification scheme on paddy production

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Haryana has launched a Crop Diversification Scheme wherein the farmers have opted out of planting paddy on 7443 hectares of land in the State;
- (b) if so, the details of response of the Central Government on the scheme;

(c) if so, the effects that non-plantation of paddy is going to have on the production of paddy; and

(d) if so, the details of alternatives to less production of paddy?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) State Government of Haryana has launched a pilot scheme for substituting paddy by maize and pulses under Crop Diversification Programme for 50,000 hectare in 7 districts of the state for the year 2019-20.

(b) The Original Green Revolution States are facing problem of soil fertility deterioration and over exploitation of ground water. Crops diversification is intended to promote technological innovations for sustainable agriculture and enable farmers to choose alternative crops. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is implementing Crop Diversification Programme in Original Green Revolution States viz: Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, a sub scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) since 2013-14 to divert the area of water intensive paddy crop to alternative crops. Besides, DAC&FW is also supplementing the efforts of the state governments through implementation of various crop development programmes for promotion of agriculture/horticulture crops like pulses, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, oilseeds, cotton, fruits, vegetables etc.

(c) and (d) Meager reduction in production of paddy resulting from its replacement with alternative crops would not affect the overall foodgrain production due to increase in production of alternative crops. Under Crop Diversification Programme, a sub scheme of RKVY, states may take alternative crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, cotton and agro forestry. Maize and pluses are the alternative crops suitably adopted by the state like Haryana under state pilot scheme of Crop Diversification Programme during 2019-20.

Performance of pesticide testing laboratories in Telangana

807. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are two pesticide testing laboratories in Telangana viz. Rajendranagar and Warangal;

(b) if so, the performance of each of the above pesticide testing laboratory;