

(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 (SHRINARENDRA 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;

(c) to what extent they are helping in reducing the spurious supply of pesticides to farmers in Telangana; and

(d) the steps taken to modernize and strengthen each of the above pesticide testing laboratory since their establishment?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRINARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) Yes Sir, as reported by the State, there are two State pesticide testing laboratories in Telangana viz. Rajendranagar and Warangal.

(b) and (c) As informed by the State, during the year 2018-19, the pesticide testing laboratories at Warangal and Rajendranagar have analyzed 1118 and 2410 samples against a target of 1530 and 2107 samples respectively. Out of which, 16 samples have been declared as misbranded. Action such as show-cause notices, stop sale orders and complaint cases have been initiated on the firms whose samples have been found misbranded.

(d) As reported by the State, an amount of ₹115 lakhs has been released under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Scheme for strengthening and renovation of the pesticide testing laboratories. Further, NABL accreditation for pesticide testing laboratory at Rajendranagar has also been initiated by the State of Telangana.

Review of schemes for doubling farmers' income

808. SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has extended Minimum Support Price (MSP) of all crops but in the absence of effective procurement infrastructure and market reforms, most agriculture commodities are selling 10 to 30 per cent below their floor prices or MSPs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has reviewed the performance of new schemes/programmes implemented for doubling of farmers' income by 2022 and if so, the shortcomings noticed which create hindrance in doubling the farmers' income; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to alleviate these shortcomings and improve the quality of life of farmers, especially small and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRINARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) of 24 notified Kharif and Rabi crops for every season. Adequate procurement infrastructure is available