

mainly due to diversion for non-agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries, housing etc. While there is shift in agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, non-agricultural land is also being brought under agricultural uses. However, as per the Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments and, therefore, it is for them to take suitable steps to check conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States, through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support.

In order to check decline in the cultivable area in the country, under the National Policy for Farmers - 2007 (NPF-2007), State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities. National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy - 2007 (NRRP-2007) has also recommended that as far as possible, projects may be set up on waste land, degraded land or un-irrigated land and acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible.

Government of India is also implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) with a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and also to maintain balance in various types of land uses across the country. Under this mission, all type of land including wastelands/barren land are developed with suitable need based soil and water conservation measures and partly such degraded lands developed are put to agricultural uses.

#### **Lack of awareness on PMFBY**

†2903. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the farmers are deprived of the benefits of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers are not availing the benefits of such welfare scheme due to lack of awareness;

(c) the reasons for farmers not availing the benefits of the scheme despite extensive loss of crops in the country due to flood, drought and other natural calamities; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government would consider to publicise this scheme extensively so that farmers would become aware of this scheme and avail the benefits of the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (d) Based on the experience of past crop insurance schemes and with a view to include more risks under crop insurance, making it more affordable to the farmers etc., Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has been introduced for implementation from Kharif 2016 season. Due to the improved features of the scheme coverage under the scheme has been increased to 30% of Gross Cropped in the country from 23% in erstwhile crop insurance schemes. The major reason for farmers not availing the benefits of the scheme is lack of awareness about insurance/ insurance products in India in general and among farmers in particular. Further, all crops and areas in a State are not notified by the concerned State Governments, which also affects the coverage under the scheme.

Government has taken several initiatives including active involvement of all stakeholders especially States and implementing insurance companies for conduct of publicity campaign/awareness programmes including organization of camps in the rural areas to build farmer awareness about crop insurance schemes. Insurance companies have been asked to mandatorily utilize 0.5% of gross premium collected by them for publicity and awareness generation. Other activities for awareness generation involve the publicity of features and benefits of the scheme through advertisements in leading National/local News Papers, telecast through audio-visual media, distribution of pamphlets in local languages, participation in agriculture fairs/mela/goshti, dissemination of SMS through Kisan Portal/national crop insurance portal and conduct of workshops/ trainings State officials, financial institutions and farmers. For non-loanee farmers since crop insurance is optional, the Common Service Centres (CSCs) and online enrolment have been activated to provide the services besides traditional modes like banks/PACS and insurance intermediaries. Due to the efforts made by the Government coverage of non-loanee, for whom the coverage is voluntary, has increased from 5% under erstwhile schemes to 42% during Kharif 2019, which shows the acceptability of the scheme on voluntary basis.

#### **Amount released from NDRF to States**

2904. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released by the Central Government through National Disaster