

(c) the specific efforts made by Government to ensure that farmers from these communities benefit from MSP; and

(d) the steps Government plans to undertake to augment their income?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) No such information is maintained by the Government as government implements MSP operation for the entire category of farmers who offer their produce for such operation.

(c) and (d) To ensure MSP to farmers, Government is implementing Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA). The farmers from vulnerable communities, including from low income groups can also avail benefits from all relevant schemes of Government of India.

Use of modern technology for assessing damage to crops

667. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports on pilot studies for assessment of damage caused to crops using modern technologies under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) have been submitted by the concerned agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action Government proposes to take on the basis of reports submitted; and

(d) whether Government has fixed any timeline for change in the methodology for assessment of damage to the crops?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (d) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, through Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC) had carried out pilot studies for Optimization of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) in various States involving 8 agencies/ organizations during Kharif 2018 and Rabi 2018-19 under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). The review of these pilot studies was carried out by High Level Committee constituted for the purpose.

Based on the Pilot Study Reports, it was found that there is possibility of 30-70% reduction of CCEs (based on the crop and geographical region).

Based on these results and the technologies which were verified during the Pilot studies, the Government rolled out Smart Sampling Technique (CCE location selection using satellite data), in 96 districts of 9 States, for rice crop, during Kharif, 2019. Around 1 lakh CCEs for Rice crop are conducted, during Kharif 2019; using Smart Sampling Technique.

Pilot studies have been undertaken for estimation of yield at Gram Panchayat level, during Kharif 2019, through 14 agencies, by use of technology (Satellite data, UAV, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, etc.). As soon as statistically sound methodology for yield estimation through technology is established for the crop, the same may be adopted.

Implementation of PMFBY in Bihar

668. SHRI AKHILHSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of success accomplished by Government in implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the State of Bihar;
- (b) the number of farmers insured under this Yojana in Bihar; and
- (c) the kind of crops for which insurance claim has been demanded under this scheme and the insurance amount disbursed so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (c) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS), introduced in the country from Kharif 2016 season are optional for States. Bihar State Government opted for implementation of the PMFBY only, at the time of introduction of the scheme. After implementing the scheme till 2017-18, Bihar State Government opted out of the scheme and started its own assistance scheme namely, Bihar Rajya Fasal Sahyata Yojana.

The crops notified by the State Government of Bihar under PMFBY were paddy and maize during Kharif seasons and maize, potato, sugarcane, wheat, lentil and blackgram during Rabi seasons.