

6. There was huge scope of area increase of organic area in tribal, rainfed, hilly and remote areas.

Illegal GM farming

657. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that GM farming is banned in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether farmers in some States are illegally farming the GM crops for high yield; and
- (d) if so, whether any action has been taken to ban such illegal GM farming?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) Bt. cotton is the only Genetically Modified (GM) crop approved in 2002 by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for commercial farming in the Country and, therefore, cultivation of other unapproved GM crops are banned in India.

(c) and (d) Few incidences of suspected open cultivation of Bt. brinjal and HT cotton were reported in Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has issued advisories to States to take appropriate necessary action to curb and control the spread of Bt. brinjal and HT cotton. State Governments have given the directions to all District Administration to take necessary legal steps to curb the production and selling of illegal GM crops for farming.

**Manufacturing and selling of sub-standard pesticides
and insecticides**

658. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is insufficient network to check the quality and efficacy of sub-standard pesticides and insecticides in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, how Government is taking care of farmers and ensuring quality and efficacy of these pesticides; and
- (d) the number of cases which were booked during the last five years against supply and manufacture of substandard pesticides and insecticides?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (c) The Central and State Governments together have a wide network to check the quality of pesticides in the country. The Central/ State Insecticide Inspectors draw samples from retailers/wholesalers, manufacturing units etc. and have them analysed in 70 State Pesticides Testing Laboratories and two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories. Action is initiated under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 against those samples which are found misbranded. The Central and State Governments have notified 191 and 10946 Insecticides Inspectors respectively to check the quality of pesticides.

(d) In the last 05 years (2014-15 to 2019-20), 3,74,007 samples have been analyzed and 4117 prosecutions have been launched against the firms and dealers whose samples were found substandard.

Revamping Market Intervention scheme

659. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to extend/revamp Market Intervention Scheme to provide remunerative price to vegetable growing farmers in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal. All the horticultural / agricultural commodities including vegetables which are perishable in nature and for which Minimum Support Price is not being announced are already covered under