

Response Fund (SDRF) and the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for the period 2015-20 on 08.04.2015. As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is applicable from 2015-16 to 2019-20, relief assistance is provided from SDRF/NDRF towards input subsidy for the crop loss of 33% and above. The rate of input subsidy for crop loss is ₹ 6800/- per hectare for rainfed areas, ₹ 13500/- per hectare for assured irrigated areas and ₹ 18000/- per hectare for all type of perennial crops.

Use of pesticides in farming

2254. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is increasing use of pesticides in agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;
- (c) whether Government has received any study/research report about the increasing cases of cancer due to the use of chemicals and pesticides in the agriculture sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and
- (e) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for encouraging natural/organic farming in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) State Governments and Union Territories report data related to consumption of pesticides to Central Government. As per the provided data, the trend of consumption of chemical pesticides has varied from year to year and State to State. Pesticide use depends on several factors like area under cultivation, type of crop, cropping intensity, agro climatic conditions, soil condition, weed, insect and disease situation etc. It is pertinent to mention that the use of bio-pesticides is showing increasing trend in the various States.

(c) and (d) State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Himanchal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Mizoram, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have reported that they have not received any study/ research report about the increasing cases of cancer due to the use of chemicals and pesticides in the agriculture sector.

Indian Council of Medical Research under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recently initiated a multi-centric study to assess exposure and the health effects of Pesticides.

(e) Government of India through organic farming schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region and Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme aims for sustainable agriculture production with eco-friendly process in tune with nature, promoting organic inputs and chemical free agriculture produce for improving the health condition of the people.

Doubling farmer's income

†2255. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any action plan to double the income of farmers by 2022;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme is also under consideration of Government to provide agricultural items such as fertilizers, seeds, electricity, agricultural equipments, irrigation etc. on affordable rates so that the cost of farming could be reduced; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) Agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments undertake implementation of programmes/schemes for the development of the sector. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various schemes/ programmes. These schemes/ programmes of the Government of India are meant for the welfare of farmers by increasing production, remunerative returns and income support to farmers. A list of initiatives taken by the Government are given in the Statement (*See below*). All these steps of the Government of India are for the welfare of the farmers of the country.

Further, the Government constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee in April, 2016 to examine issues relating to "Doubling of Farmers Income" and recommend strategies

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.