

Salient features of crop insurance scheme

2370. SHRI RAMPRASAD AHIRWAR:

SHRI SURAJ BHAN:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pulses, potatoes etc. and fruits are also being considered to be included in the crop insurance scheme;

(b) the percentage of farmers covered by the scheme at present;

(c) experience of farmers regarding benefits from this scheme in the past three years; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to reduce the premium from small farmers and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Pulses and Potatoes are already covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme in some States. Fruits are not being considered at present for inclusion under the Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme.

(b) The number of farmers covered by the scheme were 16268 in 1979-80, 23442 in 1980-81 and 18408 in 1981-82 (Kharif Season).

(c) The experience gained so far is too limited to derive any conclusion regarding the benefits to the farmers. However, an amount of about Rs. 5.29 lakhs was paid as indemnities to 3832 farmers in 1979-80 and about Rs. 3.27 lakhs to 2985 farmers in 1980-81 under the Scheme in Operation.

(d) No, Sir.

The rate of premium fixed for low risk areas where the scheme is at present in operation is at the minimum i.e. not exceeding 5 per cent of the

amount insured. The premium payable by small and marginal farmers is also subsidised to the extent of 50 per cent which is equally shared by the Government of India and the State Governments concerned.

Loss of crop due to perennial weeds

2371. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that perennial weeds in cropped lands account for almost 1/3rd of crop losses in the country;

(b) whether Government have any time surveyed and investigated the causes for loss of crop due to perennial weeds in cropped lands in the country;

(c) the estimated loss in crops due to perennial weeds in the lands during 1980-81 (both seasons) and the estimated loss in money state-wise figure;

(d) whether Government have taken any crash programme to weed out the perennial weeds in cropped lands and distribution free or subsidised rate weedicides to arrest this danger;

(e) whether Government have studied the report and findings of the 8th Asian Pacific Weed Science Society Conference held at Bangalore on 23rd November, 1981 which was addressed by Dr. Gautam, Director-General of I.C.A.R.; and

(f) the decisions taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (d). There are number of both terrestrial and aquatic perennial weeds which infest large areas including some of the cropped lands. The major perennial