

**ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture**

**Santoshnagar, Hyderabad-500059**

**Date: 27.04.2016**

**Answer to the Rajya Sabha Q Dy. No. 667**

**a) Whether it is a fact that the sudden and severe change in the climate conditions is causing intense damage to crops and is affecting the productivity also;**

**- Yes.**

**b) if so, the measures taken Government is taking to ensure that the damage to crops is minimized and the loss to the farmers is compensated; and**

- All India Coordinated Research Project on Agrometeorology (AICRPAM) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research is issuing weekly bulletins on 'Status of monsoon, progress in *kharif* sowing and agromet advisories for deficit/excess rainfall areas' of the country during southwest monsoon season. For policy makers, AICRPAM in collaboration with India Meteorological Department (IMD) is issuing weekly National Agromet Advisory Services bulletins' (NAAS) which provides a national level picture.

- Once the extreme weather event has happened, to compensate for the crop damage, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has started '**Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**'. The main highlights of the scheme are mentioned below.

- There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%. The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low and balance premium will be paid by the Government to provide full insured amount to the farmers against crop loss on account of natural calamities.
- There is no upper limit on Government subsidy. Even if balance premium is 90%, it will be borne by the Government.
- Earlier, there was a provision of capping the premium rate which resulted in low claims being paid to farmers. This capping was done to limit Government outgo on the premium subsidy. This capping has now been removed and farmers will get claim against full sum insured without any reduction.
- The use of technology will be encouraged to a great extent. Smart phones will be used to capture and upload data of crop cutting to reduce the delays in claim payment to farmers. Remote sensing will be used to reduce the number of crop cutting experiments.

**c) Whether the government would consider balancing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of crops based on the amount of damage that has been caused to the crops?**

**-- No information available**