

Statesman, 17-5-76 P-4

HBL, P-17 17-5-76

Cap on subsidised seed supply goes

Hyderabad, May 16

In a significant move, the Telangana government has removed the upper cap on the supply of subsidised seeds to farmers. "Till now, a farmer could get subsidised seeds only for a maximum of two hectares. We have removed it totally. All farmers will get adequate seeds for their agricultural land as mentioned in the pattadar passbooks for the ensuing Kharif season," Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Minister for Agriculture and Cooperation, Telangana, told newsmen. Further, the quantum of seeds to be supplied has been increased from 5.69 lakh quintals to 8.50 quintals. While requesting farmers to reduce cotton cultivation and replace it with that of soyabean and pulses, Reddy said these seeds will be offered without any ceiling to farmers at the prices last year. OUR BUREAU

Only agri graduates can sell pesticides, rules govt

P-4 Statesman
17-5-76

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 16 May

The Centre has asked states not to issue new licences to insecticide and pesticide dealers who do not have an agriculture or science graduation degree, said the Minister of State for Agriculture, Mr Sanjeev Baliyaan.

The decision would not only open business opportunities for agriculture or science graduates, but also help farmers get free advice on the use of pesticides and its right quantities. The decision is likely to help over one lakh agriculture graduates and would be a symbiotic relationship between farmers and pesticide traders, the minister said.

At present the order is confined to new licences. However, instructions have been given to the existing traders to either employ agriculture science graduates or be ready to lose their licences.

As per the notification issued by the Agriculture Ministry, any individual who wants to run an insecticide/pesticide shop should possess a degree either in

agricultural sciences, bio-chemistry, biotechnology, life sciences or B.Sc chemistry, botany or zoology.

The state governments have been given two years to implement the rule to its existing pesticide traders. The government has given existing dealers the option to either graduate themselves in these streams or hire a graduate to run their shops, said a senior officer of the Agriculture Ministry. The new rule has also given some relaxation to fertiliser dealers as they can continue to run their shops by obtaining a six-month diploma in fertiliser management.

The decision was taken because farmers normally use pesticides and its quantities on the instructions of traders. Intentionally or unintentionally, the traders sometimes advise excessive use of pesticide or use of some pesticides which are not required, the minister said. "Agriculture science graduates would help farmers to know which pesticide to use, how to use it. It would further bring down the practice of excess use of pesticides," the minister said.

Amr

W 1/c Newspaper Unit