

Rajashaba

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109	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Price hike in onion	DHARMENDRA PRADHAN	UNSTARRED
71	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Import of edible oils	PRAKASH KESHAV JAVADKAR	UNSTARRED
28	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Coconut production	AVINASH RAI KHANNA	UNSTARRED
27	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Development of entrepreneurship amongst farmers	AAYANUR MANJUNATHA	UNSTARRED
26	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Plans to increase crop yield	RAM KRIPAL YADAV	UNSTARRED
24	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Frequency of drought in Telangana and Rayalaseema	DEVENDER GOUD T.	UNSTARRED
23	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Breakthrough in decoding genome of Kabuli chana	H.K. DUA	UNSTARRED
22	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Agricultural development in Naxal affected areas	JANARDHAN WAGHMARE	UNSTARRED
21	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Implementation of NWDPR	K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO	UNSTARRED
20	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Monitoring of pesticide residues in food commodities	K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO	UNSTARRED
19	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Need based use of approved pesticides	K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO	UNSTARRED
18	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Miserable condition of farmers in Assam	NAZNIN FARUQUE	STARRED
18	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Suicide by farmers in Haryana	KANWAR DEEP SINGH	UNSTARRED
17	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Implementation of NWDPR	NAJMA A. HEPTULLA	UNSTARRED
16	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Agriculture based vocational training programmes for farmers	NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR	UNSTARRED
15	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Agricultural credit in the State of Delhi	PIYUSH GOYAL	UNSTARRED
14	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Measures to improve yield of crops	PIYUSH GOYAL	UNSTARRED
13	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Irregularities in implementing Prime Ministers package for Vidarbha	PRAKASH KESHAV JAVADKAR	STARRED
13	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Demand to fix MSP at 50 per cent more than the cultivation cost	K.P.RAMALINGAM	UNSTARRED
12	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Quality of Bt. Cotton seeds	PALVAI	UNSTARRED

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11	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Conversion of land for agricultural use	RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA	UNSTARRED
10	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Areas under foodgrain cultivation	K.N. BALAGOPAL	STARRED
9	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Infrastructure for agriculture marketing in rural areas	V. MAITREYAN	UNSTARRED
8	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Implementation of NHM in Maharashtra	RAJKUMAR DHOOT	UNSTARRED
7	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Poisonous impact of pesticides	RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA	UNSTARRED
6	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Production of spurious pesticides	N. BALAGANGA	UNSTARRED
5	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Amendments to Agricultural Produce Marketing Act	T. RATNA BAI	UNSTARRED
4	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Shifting of farmers to other professions	ALOK TIWARI	UNSTARRED
3	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Allocation of funds to Tamil Nadu for development of agricultural production	V. MAITREYAN	UNSTARRED
2	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Agricultural and non agricultural land in Gujarat	SMIRTI ZUBIN IRANI	UNSTARRED
1	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Suicide by farmers in Maharashtra	RAJKUMAR DHOOT	STARRED
1	AGRICULTURE	22.02.2013	Starvation deaths in Tamil Nadu	T.K. RANGARAJAN	UNSTARRED

22.02.2013

Price hike in onion

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there has been a sharp increase in the prices of the onions recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to control the prices of the onions;
- (d) whether government is contemplating to impose a ban on the export of the onions to control the prices of the onions; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b) : Monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base Year 2004-05=100) for onion for the period January, 2012 to January, 2013 indicates that there is a mixed trend from January, 2012 to September, 2012 thereafter a sharp increase from October, 2012 to January, 2013. a statement showing variations in the monthly WPI of onion over the last one year is given below:-

Monthly WPI for Onion

Month Onion

January, 12 151.0

February, 12 133.8

March, 12 136.0

April, 12 139.6

May, 12 138.2
June, 12 157.9
July, 12 180.7
August, 12 194.1
September, 12 194.0
October, 12 210.2
November, 12 259.8
December, 12 304.8
January, 13 319.4

Prices of vegetables such as onion are mainly governed by the market forces of demand and supply, cost of transportation, cost of storage and rising demand due to increasing [income](#), urbanization etc. the untimely rains in different onion growing areas, which has affected the crop and its supply chain, has contributed to sharp increase in its prices.

(c): Government has launched the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) from 2005-06 for holistic development of horticulture sector. Under NHM, financial assistance is provided for taking up various activities relating to horticulture crops including onion. Government has also launched a scheme on Vegetables Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) during 2011-12 within the overall Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Scheme.

The Scheme cover all aspects relating to formation of farmer`s association/groups, training/capacity building of farmers, linking farmers group with aggregators/markets, vegetable production under supply to urban centers starting from planting material to marketing to retail level.

(d) & (e): There is no proposal to ban export of onion.

Coconut production

28 SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

(a) the details of coconut production in the country;

(b) the details of plan to increase production in those states, where the production is less;

(c) whether it is a fact that the per tree coconut production in Tamil Nadu is 200 to 220 whereas it is just 20-22 in Andaman and Nicobar; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to increase production of coconut in Andaman and Nicobar?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a): Sir, the total production of coconut in the country is 1895.20 metric tones during 2009-10. State-wise production of coconut is at Annexure-1.

(b): Government of India has been implementing following developmental schemes for increasing the coconut production and productivity in the country.

- (i) Laying out of Demonstration Plots (LODP),
- (ii) Assistance to Organic Manure Units (OMU),
- (iii) Expansion of area under coconut and
- (iv) Replanting and rejuvenation of coconut gardens.

(c): Coconut production is 79 nuts/tree in Tamil Nadu and 22 nuts/tree in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(d): Same as (b) above.

Measures to improve yield of crops

14 SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any measures to improve the yield of different crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the impact of the measures taken by Government?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. To improve production and yield of different crops, a number of Crop Development Schemes are being implemented through State Government in the country like National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC), Jute Technology Mission (JTM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals and Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems Areas (SUBACS) under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion (INSIMP), Accelerated Fodder Development Programme (AFDP), Special Programme on Oil Palm Area Expansion (OPAE), Vegetable Clusters; National Horticulture Mission (NHM), etc.

(c): The implementation of the Crop Development Programmes has boosted the production primarily through increase in yield of crops. Overall Total Foodgrains production in the country has increased from 217.28 million tones in 2006-07 to 259.32 million tones in 2011-12 resulting in 18.39 percent increase in yield of total foodgrains (12.29% in rice, 17.31% in wheat and 14.21% in pulses). Similarly, production of horticulture crops has increased from 191.81 million tones in 2006-07 to 257.28 million tones in 2011-12. From 2006-07 to 2011-12, the production of Oilseeds has increased from 24.29 million tones to 29.80 million tones (23.68% increase in yield), production of Cotton has increased from 22.63 to 35.20 million bales (16.63% increase in yield) and production of Jute and Mesta from 11.27 million bales to 11.40 million bales (5.20% increase in yield) and production of Sugarcane (in terms of cane) from 355.52 to 361.04 million tones (29.55% increase in yield).

Demand to fix MSP at 50 per cent more than the cultivation cost

13 DR K.P.RAMALINGAM

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a demand to fix MSP at fifty per cent more than the cultivation cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to the said demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING
INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (d): National Commission on Farmers (NCF) under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan had recommended that the MSP should be at least 50 percent more than the weighted average cost of production. Various State Governments and farmers organizations have demanded from time to time for fixation of MSP at 50 percent more than the cost of cultivation as recommended by NCF.

The recommendation of NCF, however, has not been accepted by the Government because MSP is recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) based on objective criteria and considering variety of relevant factors. Hence, prescribing an increase of at least 50 percent on cost may distort market. A mechanical linkage between MSP and cost of production may be counterproductive in some cases.

Irregularities in implementing Prime Ministers package for Vidarbha

13 SHRI PRAKASH KESHAV JAVADKAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

- (a) whether Government has enquired into the complaints of irregularities and corruption in implementing the Prime Minister's package announced for the six districts of Vidarbha region, where farmers' suicides have taken place in large number;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action initiated by Government against the culprits;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the relief Government proposes to give to the farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 13 FOR 22/02/2013 REGARDING IRREGULARITIES IN IMPLEMENTING PRIME MINISTER'S PACKAGE FOR VIDARBHA.

(a) to (d): In September, 2008, Government of Maharashtra constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Gopal Reddy, the then Director General, Vasantnao Naik Shetkari Swavalamban Mission, Amravati to enquire into reports of irregularities in selection of beneficiaries under the programme of distribution of milch animals under the rehabilitation package for farmers in the identified districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. The Committee submitted its report to the Government of Maharashtra in April, 2009. The Committee recommended that clear and detailed guidelines regarding the norms adopted for selection of beneficiaries under the rehabilitation package should be issued before implementing the scheme. Accordingly, vide GR dated 07.12.2009, Government of Maharashtra issued detailed guidelines for selection of beneficiaries.

Quality of Bt. Cotton seeds

12 SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the quality of Bt.Cotton seeds has come down and as a result the use of pesticides has gone up;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that due to (a) above, diseases have become rampant in the cotton farms;
- (c) if so, the steps Government is taking to address this problem and how will it ensure that seed companies produce quality seeds of Bt. Cotton; and
- (d) the monitoring mechanism Government has to ensure quality seeds?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

- (a) & (b): No, Sir. Due to wide scale adoption of Bt. Cotton, use of pesticide has come down and there is no evidence of any disease becoming rampant.
- (c) & (d): In order to check the quality of Bt. Cotton seeds, Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has developed kits to detect seed quality of Bt. Cotton and constantly updating ELISA, farmer-usable-dipsticks and DNA based PCR tests for the Bt genes that are approved for Bt. cotton in India. The Bt. referral laboratory at CICR also provides training to the seed testing officials and also provides services for quality testing.

Conversion of land for agricultural use

11 SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

- (a) whether it is a matter of serious concern that out of the total 3,28,725 thousand hectares of geographical area of the country, 1,46,820 thousand hectares of land has become unfit for agriculture;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the said land can be converted into agricultural land;

(d) the steps taken to control soil erosion and the results thereof; and

(e) the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. As per available estimates of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR-2010), out of total geographical area of 328.73 million hectare, about 120.40 million hectare are affected by various kind of land degradation across the country. Soil formation and its erosion are a natural phenomena occurring simultaneously. Such soil erosion leads to land degradation in upper reaches of the river system, whereas when deposited at various locations of river systems, it may increase the soil fertility.

(d) & (e): With a view to conserve top soil and prevent soil erosion & land degradation, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various watershed Development programmes, namely National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River and Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils across the country. Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing a major Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWPM) for restoring ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded lands in the country. Parts of such developed degraded lands have been put to cultivation, leading to net sown area remaining largely unchanged in last two decades.

Areas under foodgrain cultivation

10 SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

(a) whether the total land area used for foodgrain cultivation in the country has changed its field size during the last ten years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 10 FOR 22/02/2013 REGARDING AREAS UNDER FOODGRAIN CULTIVATION.

(a) & (b): As per the latest Land Use Statistics data (2009-10) compiled by Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, the total area under cultivation of all crops including foodgrains has marginally decreased from 156.1 million hectares in 2000-01 to 155.8 million hectares in 2009-10. The State-wise details are at Annexure.

Infrastructure for agriculture marketing in rural areas

9 DR. V. MAITREYAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether infrastructure for agriculture marketing in rural areas of the country is inadequate;

(b) if so, the schemes evolved by Government to provide sound agriculture marketing infrastructure in rural areas of the country particularly in the agricultural dominated States like Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the funds allocated under each scheme, State-wise?

ANSWER

(a) to (c): Agriculture and Marketing are State subjects and State Governments and Union Territories have enacted State legislations (APMC Act) for development and regulation of agriculture marketing. A Central Sector Scheme named "Grameen Bhandaran Yojana" is being implemented in all States, including Tamil Nadu to create a network of godowns in rural areas in the country. The other schemes being implemented to promote and develop agricultural marketing infrastructure in the country, including rural areas, include, Scheme for Strengthening/Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization; National Horticulture Mission; and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States. These schemes are implemented in the States which have made Marketing Reforms as per model APMC Act circulated to States in 2003. State-wise funds are not allocated under these schemes.

Implementation of NHM in Maharashtra

8 SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) the funds provided to Maharashtra during the last three years under the Central Scheme - National Horticulture Mission (NHM), year-wise;

(b) the results achieved therefrom;

(c) the status of export of horticulture products from the State during the said period; and

(d) the other measures taken by Government to increase the output and to provide remunerative prices to the producers in the State?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a): Funds provided to Maharashtra under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) are given below:
(Rs. in crore)

Year Release

2009-10 91.73

2010-11 126.141

2011-12 93.99

(b): Since launch of NHM in 2005-06, and upto 2011-12, an additional area of 2.44 lakh ha has been covered under horticulture crops. 96 nurseries have been established. An area of 1,14,745 ha has been covered under rejuvenation of old and senile orchards. Organic farming and Integrated Pest Management(IPM)/ Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) practices have been adopted in an area of 5676 ha and 44,416 ha respectively. 86 IPM/INM infrastructure facilities such as leaf tissue analysis labs, disease forecasting units have been created. An area of 5840 ha has been covered under Protected cultivation, 5066 community water structures have been created. Under Post Harvest Management, 1816 units viz. Pack houses, cold storage units, refrigerated vans, primary/mobile processing units, ripening chambers, pre-cooling units attach to cold storages have been established. 12 market infrastructures have been settled.

ContdP/2.

-2-

(c): Details of export figures are available on all India basis. The export data of major horticulture produce in India including State of Maharashtra is as under :

Qty-MTs

Value-Rs. lakh

Product 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12

Qty Value Qty Value Qty Value

Onions 1664922 231943 1182324 177929 1309863 172285

Grapes 131154 54534 98005 42830 108585 60288

Floriculture 26815 29446 28907 29604 30926 36532

Mangoes 74461 20054 58863 16484 63441 20974

Source: Agriculture & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

(d); To increase production and productivity of horticulture crops, schemes viz. Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC), National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) are being implemented in the State. To provide remunerative prices farmers groups and their tie-up with aggregators are being promoted under VIUC. Besides, rural markets, whole-sale markets and terminal markets are being promoted under NHM.

Poisonous impact of pesticides

7 SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

(a) the percentage of use of pesticides in the production of foodgrains, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables etc.;

(b) the impact of the harmful residues of pesticides on the body and health of human beings;

(c) whether any test has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the names of diseases that afflict the human beings due to the impact of use of pesticides on foodgrains, fruits and vegetables as per this study;

(e) the measures being taken to curb this poisonous impact of pesticides; and

(f) the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a): Consumption of pesticides in 2011-12 as per information given by States/UTs in "Zonal

Conference on Inputs" is 50,583.47 MT(Technical Grade).

(b) & (c): Pesticides are inherently toxic in nature. However, they are allowed to be used in such quantities, where the leftover residue does not pose any harm to human beings. These quantities are prescribed by Registration Committee, constituted u/s. 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 and are mentioned on label and leaflets, which form the part of Certificate of Registration. Before registration, comprehensive data is obtained from the Registrants of pesticides with respect to toxicity issues, bio-efficacy, chemistry and packaging.

(d): If pesticides are used as per directions mentioned on label and leaflets, they do not pose any harm to human beings. Only their misuse or overuse can be harmful to human beings.

(e) & (f): Government is promoting "Integrated Pest Management (IPM)", under which it conducts Farmers Field Schools(FFSs), wherein farmers are taught to adopt non-chemical means to kill or combat the pests, weeds & diseases and to depend minimally and judiciously on chemical pesticides for their use. Government is promoting the use of bio-pesticides and these are registered/provisionally registered on simplified guidelines. Provisional certificates of bio pesticides registrants are given extension of validity period for manufacturing, sale and usages liberally.

Registration Committee registers safe and effective pesticides for use in the country after thoroughly evaluating exhaustive data and information submitted by the applicant on scientific basis. Science is a dynamic subject; concepts keep on changing. As and when, Government gets some negative feedback pertaining to any pesticide, it is re-evaluated even after registration. Many pesticides have been banned for manufacture, import and use. Some pesticides have been restricted for their use and some have been withdrawn for their uses. Eighteen pesticides were refused registration. Besides, pesticides are reviewed by highly technical Groups/Committees from time to time and are then allowed to be continued in the country with or without restriction.

Production of spurious pesticides

6 SHRI N. BALAGANGA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some of the pesticide manufacturing companies are reportedly producing spurious pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to prevent such production of spurious pesticides and the action taken against such companies?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): News about availability of spurious pesticides in the market do appear in the print media. A complaint dated 24.11.2010, was received in the Ministry of Agriculture from Sh. Kaushalendra Kumar, Hon'ble MP, Lok Sabha wherein it was alleged that M/s Crystal Phosphates Ltd. and M/s Insecticides India Ltd were involved in marketing and manufacturing of banned and spurious pesticides like Phorate 10%CG (Thimet 10G) and Methyl Parathion 50% EC (Metacid) and Methyl Parathion 2% DP (Folidol Dust). In this regard, it is stated that neither of these pesticides/formulations is banned in India.

(c): On the basis of the complaint, raids were conducted in all the manufacturing premises of both the firms from where 31 samples of pesticides were drawn (14 from M/s Crystal Phosphates Ltd. and 17 from M/s Insecticides India Ltd.). Four samples of M/s Crystal Phosphate Ltd. were found misbranded, whereas, no sample of M/s Insecticides India Ltd was found to be misbranded. Prosecution has been launched against M/s Crystal Phosphates Ltd. in District Court of Sonapat, Haryana on 05.05.2012 and in the Court of Fifth Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Court Campus, Mirzapur, Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 10.12.2012. Other irregularities observed in case of both the firms were communicated to the Secretariat of Central Insecticides Board & Registration Committee for taking necessary action as per the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 and Rules framed thereunder. Both the State Governments were also requested to stop sale of batches of misbranded pesticides.

Raids are conducted by Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, Faridabad officials all over the country from time to time, suo moto or on the basis of complaints received from different sources, to check inter alia production of spurious pesticides.

Amendments to Agricultural Produce Marketing Act

5 SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

(a) whether Government is making amendments to the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act to benefit the farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction so far?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): 'Agriculture Marketing' is a State subject and most of the State Governments and Union

Territory Administrations have enacted State legislations (APMC Act) for development and regulation of marketing of agricultural produce. In order to improve marketing of agriculture produce in the country for the benefit of farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture framed a model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act in 2003 and circulated to all States and Union Territories for making necessary amendments in their present State APMC Act on the basis of model Act.

The Ministry of Agriculture has also set up a committee of Ministers, In-charge of Agricultural Marketing in 2010, which has been deliberating on market reform related issues. In addition to the above the Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing various schemes to improve the agricultural marketing in the country which include Marketing Research and Information Network Scheme, Grameen Bhandaran Yojana and the Scheme for Strengthening/Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Grading and Standardization. Presently there is no proposal for amending the model Act.

Shifting of farmers to other professions

4 SHRI ALOK TIWARI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

(a) whether as per the recent report of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, millions of farmers have left farming to become labourers during 2005-10;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the reasons for quitting of farm sector by farmers on such a large scale; and

(d) the fresh steps Government would take to check shifting out of farmers to other professions in view of this report?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): Institute of Applied Manpower Research in their Occasional Paper No. 9/2012 on “Joblessness and Informalization: Challenges to inclusive Growth in India”, has stated that the share of agriculture in total employment has fallen from 57 per cent in 2005 to 53 per cent in 2010. Based on 2009-10 employment –unemployment National Sample Survey (NSS) data, the Report states that there has been a shift in employment from agriculture between 2004-05 to 2009-10 of 14.08 million to other sectors mainly construction. The State-wise and year-wise details were not given in the Report.

(c): Factors such as search for better employment, etc. lead to migration. Many of the workers engaged in agriculture are under-employed with low levels of productivity. Reducing the population pressure on agriculture will not only contribute to the increasing productivity of agriculture, it will also promote overall economic growth.

(d): Government have taken various steps to improve productivity and create additional employment in agriculture sector. Important programmes implemented in agriculture sector include National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rshtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Micro Irrigation, Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulsed Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM).

These schemes apart from increasing agricultural production and productivity also create on-farm and non-farm employment.

Allocation of funds to Tamil Nadu for development of agricultural production

3 DR. V. MAITREYAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

(a) the total funds sanctioned and released till 31st December, 2012 to the agriculture dominated State of Tamil Nadu under various schemes for development of agricultural production, Agriculture MarketingInfrastructure, Grading and Standardisation;

(b) whether the funds allocated are far from adequate and if so, the reasons and justification therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (c): Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a number of schemes for development of agriculture in the country. An amount of Rs. 2068.04 crore during XI Plan (2007-2012) and an amount of Rs. 585.31 crore during 2012-13 (till January, 2013) has been released to the State of Tamil Nadu under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. In addition to that, under Central Sector Scheme "Development / Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization" an amount of Rs.555.89 crore has been sanctioned till December 2012 covering 1116 development projects since inception of the scheme in 2004-05. For scientific storage of agricultural produce and prevention of post harvest losses, 1547 number of Rural Godowns have been constructed with a capacity of 9,47,243 M.Ts. in Tamil Nadu upto December,

2012 involving a subsidy of Rs.20.23 crore.

Agricultural and non agricultural land in Gujarat

2 SHRIMATI SMIRTI ZUBIN IRANI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

- (a) whether Government has conducted a survey to know the status of agricultural and non-agricultural land in all districts of Gujarat;
- (b) if so, when the said survey was done and the outcome thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) by when the said survey is likely to be conducted and completed?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (d): Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India compiles and disseminates State wise and district wise Land Use Statistics (LUS) comprising of agricultural and non-agricultural land as part of collecting LUS in the country on annual basis. This information is being collected and compiled by State Agricultural Statistics Authority (SASA), which is designated to collect LUS data in each State/UTs.

The latest available district wise data supplied by the States including Gujarat are posted in the website of DES. The same can be accessed from the URL <http://lus.dacnet.nic.in>.

Starvation deaths in Tamil Nadu

1 SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

- (a) the number of starvation deaths reported due to drought situation in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the details thereof, district-wise;
- (c) whether Central Government pays compensation to families in such cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): Government of Tamil Nadu has not submitted any memorandum nor reported any starvation deaths due to drought situation in that State.

(c) & (d): As per extant norms, Ex-Gratia payment to families of persons deceased due to natural calamity is admissible under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) @ Rs. 1.50 lakh per deceased person including those involved in relief operations or associated in preparedness activities, subject to certification regarding cause of death from appropriate authority. In addition, gratuitous relief for families in dire need of immediate sustenance @ Rs.30 per adult and Rs. 25 per child is admissible under SDRF and NDRF for families not housed in relief camps based on certification by the State Government that :-

(i) these persons have no food reserve, or their food reserves have been wiped out in the calamity; and

(ii) identified beneficiaries are not housed in relief camps.

The period for providing gratuitous relief will be as per assessment of the State Executive Committee (SEC) and the Central team (in case of NDRF). The default period of assistance will be upto 30 days, which may be extended upto 60 days in the first instance, if required, and subsequently upto 90 days in case of drought/pest attack.

Suicide by farmers in Maharashtra

1 SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether it is a fact that despite various steps taken by Government, the farmers are committing suicide consistently in Maharashtra, particularly in the Vidarbha region;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last ten months, showing the number of farmers committed suicide; and

(c) the effective measures Government proposes to take to prevent suicide by farmers in the State?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 1 FOR 22/02/2013 REGARDING SUICIDE BY FARMERS IN MAHARASHTRA.

(a) & (b): As per information provided by the Government of Maharashtra, the number of farmers in the State who committed suicide due to agrarian distress declined from 1035 in 2006 to 485 in 2011. Similarly, the number of farmers in the six identified suicide prone districts of Vidarbha region who committed suicide due to agrarian distress declined from 565 in 2006 to 346 in 2011. 228 farmers in the six identified suicide prone districts of Vidarbha region committed suicide due to agrarian distress during the last ten months till 31.01.2013.

(c): Government has taken several steps to revitalize agriculture sector and improve condition of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, extension, marketing, etc. Various programmes/schemes for the development of agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. The focus of Government is primarily on expansion of farm income, creation of non-farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation and forging appropriate backward and forward linkages. Other measures taken by the Government for the benefit of farmers include enhancement in minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans, etc.

Import of edible oils

71 SHRI PRAKASH KESHAV JAVADKAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

- (a) the details of import of edible oils since 2004;
- (b) the reasons for such an increase;
- (c) the reasons for decline in domestic production; and
- (d) the action Government proposes to take in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING
INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a): Import of edible oils since 2004, in quantity and value terms, is as under:

Import of edible oils

Year	Quantity in lakh MT	Value in Rs. Crore
2004-05	47.48	11084
2005-06	42.89	8986
2006-07	42.71	9570
2007-08	49.04	10338
2008-09	67.19	15882
2009-10	80.37	26546
2010-11	69.04	29920
2011-12	84.41	46332
2012-13 (Apr-Sept)	53.33	32210

contd.-2

(b): Import of edible oils has increased over the years due to widening gap between domestic production and demand.

(c): Production of edible oils from domestic sources has increased from 72.47 lakh MT in 2004-05 to 90.21 lakh MT in 2011-12.

(d): Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize to increase production of oilseeds and oil palm in the country. Moreover, under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) funds are being provided to States to promote plantation of oil palm. Besides, Minimum Support Price for oilseeds has been increased significantly to incentivize farmers.

Development of entrepreneurship amongst farmers

27 SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government proposes to educate and promote entrepreneurship amongst farmers for adoption of scientific methods for dairy development and poultry farming in the country;

(b) if so, the schemes launched/proposed to be launched for this purpose;

(c) the funds earmarked and provided to farmers under various schemes during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the success achieved in developing entrepreneurship among the farmers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): The Animal Science Division of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) undertakes Research and Development (R&D) programs through institute based projects as well as projects in All India Coordinated / Network mode in collaboration with State Agricultural / Veterinary Universities, Non Government Organizations and other State / Central Government Departments. Poultry germplasm in the form of fertile eggs, day old chicks and parent stocks are being supplied to the State Governments and poultry farmers on demand. There are no funds earmarked for the farmers as such. Names and location of Animal Science Institutes, All India Coordinated Research/Network Project Centres involved in dairy and poultry farming R&D is given at Annexure-I.

The development and extension schemes are implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DAHD&F), Government of India (GOI) and the State Government Departments. The DAHD&F implemented Dairy Venture Capital Fund (DVCF) scheme from 2004-05 up to 31st August, 2010 for promoting dairy entrepreneurship among the farmers. The scheme was modified after evaluation and renamed as Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS) with effect from 1st September, 2010. Central Assistance in the form of Interest Free Loan of 50% of the project cost in DVCF has been replaced by Back ended Capital Subsidy in DEDS. The subsidy is 25% of the project cost for general category and 33.33% for SC & ST beneficiaries. The funds allocated during last three years under DVCF and DEDS scheme is annexed as Annexure II. Statement indicating state-wise number of dairy units sanctioned and amount disbursed by NABARD under scheme Dairy Venture Capital Fund (DVCF) and Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS) during last three years is annexed in Annexure III. The DAHD&F is initiating the National Dairy Plan, Phase I (2011-12 to 2016-17) to promote dairy farming amongst the farmers so as to supplement their income.

So far as Poultry is concerned, a Central Sector Scheme, 'Poultry Venture Capital Fund' is being implemented through National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development and component of

Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Poultry Development" viz. 'Poultry Estates'(on pilot basis) with one of the objectives of developing entrepreneurial skills among farmers. No State-wise funds are earmarked / allocated for the schemes mentioned. The funds released are for various purposes like infrastructure, capacity building, waiving off of interests on 50% of the loan etc. The releases made under the schemes during the last three years and the uptake of number of units assisted under 'Poultry Venture Capital Fund indicating the success may kindly be seen at Annexure-IV, V and VI.

Plans to increase crop yield

26 SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) the plan Government has adopted to provide improved high yield variety seeds and fertilizers to small farmers in the country to increase their crop-yield;
- (b) whether Government has any plan to provide tools and also training to farmers to increase farm production; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and further action plan of the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Government of India is providing improved high yield variety seeds and fertilizers to the farmers including small farmers in the country for increasing their crop yield under various Crop Development Schemes i.e. National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC), Jute Technology Mission (JTM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice/Wheat/ Coarse Cereals and Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems Areas (SUBACS) under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion (INSIMP), Accelerated Fodder Development Programme (AFDP), Special Programme on Oil Palm Area Expansion (OPAE), Vegetable Clusters; National Horticulture Mission (NHM).

Govt. of India has formulated programs and schemes to provide tools to the farmers under proposed Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization in the 12th Five Year Plan with financial assistance of 40% of cost of the machinery and tools with a specified maximum ceiling limit.

Contd...2/-

The Government of India is presently imparting training to the farmers regarding operation and maintenance of farm machineries through Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes as well as through State Government under its two ongoing schemes of Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing and Demonstrations; and Post Harvest Technology and Management.

The activities like capacity building of extension functionaries and farmers, front line demonstrations, exposure visits, Kisan melas, farmers group mobilization, Farm Field Schools and farmers-scientists interaction are being taken-up under the scheme of Agricultural Technology Management Agency for realizing higher crop and Agricultural production.

Frequency of drought in Telangana and Rayalaseema

24 SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the study of rain pattern in peninsular India submitted by ICAR, there is drought once in 2.5 years in Telangana and Rayalaseema and once in every 5 years in Coastal Andhra regions of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the study;

(c) the reasons that peninsular India, particularly Andhra Pradesh, witnessed El Nino in 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2009; and

(d) in light of the above Report, how the Ministry is planning to address this issue?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The study conducted by ICAR through Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad revealed frequency of occurrence of drought once in 2-3 years in Rayalseema, once in 3-4 years in Telangana and once in 4-5 years in Coastal Andhra Pradesh. However, the drought occurrence differs significantly in districts within the region.

(c) El-Nino occurs due to abnormal warming of Sea water in equatorial Pacific Ocean modulating and modifying weather in different parts of the world including peninsular India and Andhra

Pradesh.

(d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has prepared district wise contingency plans to cope with climatic aberrations including El-Nino effects. The plans cover agro-advisories to state department of agriculture for adoption by the farmers. Besides, the Council and State Agricultural Universities are carrying out research on development of climate resilient cultivars and agronomic management practices to address this issue. The promising technologies are disseminated to farmers through training and frontline demonstrations.

Breakthrough in decoding genome of Kabuli chana

23 SHRI H.K. DUA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

(a) whether Government is aware that the Hyderabad-based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has achieved a breakthrough in decoding genome of Kabuli chana the highest consumed legume in the country;

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to use the outcome of the research carried out by our scientists for increasing the production of this high protein lentil, considering that the country is short of pulses; and

(c) the extent of shortage of pulses in the country and whether more research is being carried out to increase production of pulses?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Development of high yielding climate resilient chickpea varieties is an important area of research with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Decoding of chickpea genome will provide clues in faster discovery of genes associated with agronomic traits, such as seed yield, disease resistance, and heat and drought tolerance and breeding of improved varieties of chickpea.

(c) There is a shortage of 25-30 lakh tonnes of pulses in the country. ICAR has taken several initiatives to conduct basic and applied research. As a result, a total of 124 climate resilient high yielding varieties of pulses have been released during 2007-2012. With these efforts, the production of pulses has increased from 142 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 to 172 lakh tonnes in 2011-12.

Agricultural development in Naxal affected areas

22 DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

(a) whether Government has since chalked out plans to develop agriculture in the Naxal affected areas of the country;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the tribal dominated areas in the Naxal affected States have underlined the need for prioritizing agriculture in the affected areas; and

(d) if so, the strategies formulated by Government in consultation with the State Governments to develop agriculture in the Naxal affected areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (d): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a number of schemes for development of agriculture in the country including naxal affected districts/States. The performance of these schemes is reviewed from time to time by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. The deficiencies identified in the implementation of these schemes are taken up with the State Governments concerned for remedial action. A statement indicating the allocation made and expenditure incurred during the last three years and the current year (up to 31.01.2013) under major Schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation being implemented in naxal affected States is annexed.

Implementation of NWDPR

21 SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is implementing National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred by each State including Andhra Pradesh?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas(NWDPRA) is being implemented under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) in all 28 States throughout country. Funds for NWDPRA are utilized by state Governments from within their overall allocation under MMA.

(c): A Statement showing State-wise progress of NWDPRA is annexed.

Monitoring of pesticide residues in food commodities

20 SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to satate :-

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" under which samples of various food commodities are analysed for presence of pesticide residue therein;

(b) if so, the details of such analysis made during the last three years;

(c) whether any samples were found to contain pesticide residue above Maximum Residue Limit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken for the corrective action?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING
INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (d): Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" under which samples of various food commodities including rice, wheat, vegetables, fruits and water are analyzed for the presence of pesticides residues. During the period April 2009 to March 2012, 37,701 samples of food commodities were analyzed, of which 649 samples (1.7%) had pesticide residues above prescribed Maximum Residue Limit.

(e): The pesticide residue data generated under the scheme are shared with State Governments and

concerned Ministries/Organizations to initiate the corrective action for judicious and proper use of pesticides on crops with an Integrated Pest Management approach and to generate awareness amongst farmers. Government of India is also promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through Farmers Field Schools focusing on safe, judicious and need based use of approved pesticides and other pest management practices.

Need based use of approved pesticides

19 SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through Farmers Field Schools for safe, judicious and need based use of approved pesticides and other pest management practices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the achievements made so far under the scheme?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Following works / activities are being carried out under the Integrated Pest Management Programme –

- Popularization of IPM approach among farming community.
- Conducting regular pest surveillance and monitoring to assess pest / disease situation.
- Rearing biological control agents for their use and conservation of naturally occurring bio-agents.
- Promotion of Bio-pesticides and neem based pesticides as alternatives to chemical pesticides.
- Play a catalytic role in spread of innovative IPM skills to extension workers, land farmers in various States / UTs.
- Human Resource Development in IPM by imparting training to master trainers, extension workers and farmers through Farmers Field Schools (FFSs).
- Organization of Farmers Field Schools (FFS) through KVKs/SAUs/ICAR institutes to develop the sufficient human resource.
- Farmers are being educated under IPM through Farmers Field schools on safe, judicious and need based use of approved pesticides besides IPM skills and pest control techniques to be adopted by them in their crop fields, thereby making them self reliant in decision making. So far, total up to January, 2013 a total of 14,470 Farmer Fields Schools have been conducted through these CIPMCs

since 1994 where 4,35,098 farmers have been educated.

- Further, farmers are being educated through 2 days short duration programmes. Non formal education through participatory approach is also being adopted for educating the farmers.

ASER study on schooling outcomes

19 SHRI D. RAJA

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to satate :-

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an independent annual study by the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) Centre into schooling outcomes in rural India which has found steady decline in students' performance in key areas such as reading, comprehension and arithmetic although enrolment rates remain high;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken to ensure that the norms laid down under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act are implemented?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.19 FOR 22nd FEBRUARY, 2013, ASKED BY SHRI D. RAJA,
REGARDING ASER STUDY ON SCHOOLING OUTCOMES

(a) & (b): The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is brought out annually by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization. The ASER Rural-2012 (Provisional) presents certain positive findings, including that more than 96% children in the 6-14 years age groups are enrolled in schools in rural areas, while the percentage of out-of-school children in the 6-14 years age group has dropped from 4% in 2009 to 3.5% in 2012. The report expresses concern regarding learning levels of children in schools in rural areas.

(c): The norms of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for universalizing elementary education, have been revised to conform to the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. Since the commencement of the RTE Act in April 2010 sanctions under SSA have been given for construction of 30,808 primary schools and 10,644 upper primary schools, 6.88 lakh additional classrooms, 31,678 drinking water facilities, 5.18 lakh toilets and for appointment of over 7 lakh teachers.
