

Investment and infrastructure facility for agriculture sector

†3413. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering upon to improve the infrastructure in rural areas to increase investment in the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether "Indo-American Knowledge Initiative on Agricultural Research and Education" has devised a new framework for cooperation based on agricultural research and development in order to facilitate entry of multi-national companies into the villages; and

(d) if so, the objectives and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Schemes being implemented to improve the infrastructure in rural areas to increase investment in the agriculture sector include *inter-alia* Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Micro Irrigation, National Horticulture Mission, Technology Mission on Horticulture for North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Macro Management of Agriculture, Development/ Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization; Grameen Bhandaran Yojana and Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Infrastructure for dairy co-operatives

3414. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is providing funds to strengthen the infrastructure of dairy co-operatives;

(b) if so, the details of the agencies through which funding is done;

(c) whether the existing guidelines stipulates the assistance only to the dairy co-operatives affiliated to the regional union;

(d) if so, whether Government considers change in the present guidelines to include the traditional milk societies which are not affiliated to union; and

(e) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely "Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP)" and "Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production" and one Central Sector Scheme namely "Assistance to Co-operatives" to strengthen the infrastructure of dairy cooperatives.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.