

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) State Government have reported that they are aware of the heat conditions in the State and details due to sun-stroke

(b) The State Government is reported to have taken necessary preventive measures, like steps to repair all drinking water sources and provide water through tankers in the scarcity pockets, opening of voluntary supply points for drinking water, rescheduling the timings of examination and working hours of schools & colleges, rescheduling the working hours of labourers to avoid direct exposure, keeping in stock of essential life saving medicines, instructions to the concerned agencies to provide uninterrupted power supply to health institutions and examination centres and through adequate publicity through the media, with a view to bring awareness among the people to combat the heat wave conditions.

(c) and (d) The State Government have reported five confirmed cases of death due to sun-stroke; two in Dhenkanal district and one each in Angul, Mayurbhanj and Kalahandi districts.

**Pest attack on cotton**

4120. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDAR

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the loss that has been suffered due to destruction of cotton crops by several pests attack in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh during the last five years; and

(b) what steps have been taken to arrest this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The loss in production of cotton is attributable to various factors like unseasonal rains, floods, drought, besides other adverse weather conditions, non-availability of resistant/tolerant varieties, untimely sowing, lack of balanced use of fertilisers and recommended quality pesticides, non-adoption of recommended cultural practices, etc; and not to pests attack alone.

(b) The major steps taken to check the pests attack on cotton include monitoring and surveillance of cotton pests for early forewarning, conducting

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of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations and trainings to extension functionaries and farmers to promote the use of biopesticides, biocontrol agents and judicious and need-based use of chemical pesticides, supply of biocontrol agents and bio-pesticides, distribution of IPM literature, registration of eco-friendly pesticides like Imidacloprid for cotton seed treatment against sucking pests and to avoid initial spraying of pesticide for first 60-70 days, supply of plant protection chemicals on 50% subsidy and stringent steps to stop marketing of spurious pesticides in the market.

During 1999-2000, Rs. 3927.00 lakh has been allocated as Government of India's share for implementing the revised Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) for implementation in 15 major cotton growing States, including Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. Under the Scheme, IPM trainings and demonstrations, distribution of plant protection equipments and setting up of Biocontrol Agents Laboratory are being undertaken besides other components.

#### **Target for Annual Growth**

† 4121. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL,

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed the target regarding the annual growth rate in the production of agricultural sector for the ensuing years;

(b) if so, the target thereof;

(c) whether the information pertaining to existing shortcomings prevalent in the agricultural sector has been collected in order to achieve the target;

(d) if so, what are the details of such shortcomings; and

(e) what steps are contemplated to be taken by Government to rectify the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Embedded in a fifteen year perspective, the Ninth Five Year Plan has projected growth rates in agricultural production as indicated below :

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.