

action on each recommendation initiated by the Subject Matter Divisions at the ICAR Hdqr. The technical recommendations are implemented by the ICAR immediately and only the major policy issue involving system-wise implications are submitted to the Governing Body of the ICAR for consideration.

(c) The working of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have been reviewed by the QRTs 8 different regions during 1993-94. The recommendations of these QRT reports have been processed and action on recommendations have been initiated.

(d) The research and development results of ICAR are being used by the Industry in the following areas:—

- CROP SECTOR
- Improved varieties of different crop seeds for commercial multiplication.
 - Production of Breeders Seed.

- AGRIL. ENGG.
- Improved farm machinery and equipment.
 - Lac products/ byproducts utilisation.
 - Jute fibre / byproducts utilisation.
 - Cotton fibre evaluation and utilisation of cotton material waste.
 - Post harvest processing of agril. produce.

- FISHERIES DIVISION
- Aquaculture and arine fishing.
 - Innovative designs of craft and gear for inshore fishing.
 - Various processed products such as chitin/ chitoson from shrimp waste.
 - Chlorine level indicators.
 - Food flavours from prawn fishing for use in noodles etc.

- Production of aquaculture pearl.

- ANIMAL
- Conventional feed utilisation for poultry.

- SCIENCE
- Germ Plasm for better broiler and egg production.

- Vaccine production.

Interlinking Agricultural Universities and Farm Research Institutes through Computers

4246. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to interlink the 27 Agricultural universities and major farm research institutes through computer network; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has entered into an agreement with the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR), an International Agricultural Research Centre based in the Hague, (The Netherlands), for preparing a detailed project report for linking all zonal research stations of the State Agricultural Universities with the Headquarters of the University and the University with ICAR Headquarter. Some of the ICAR Institutes are already linked to ICAR Headquarters through NICNET. A computer network linking zonal research stations, SAUs and ICAR Institutes with the Headquarters of the Council will provide on-line exchange of information on agricultural research and technology and lead to quicker access to information required by research scientists.

Computerization of Land Records

4247. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to Computerise the land records;

(b) if so, the States where steps have been taken in that direction;

(c) whether Government propose to provide assistance to the states to computerise the land records; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been taken for Computerisation of Land Records in 25 States / U.T.s viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kamataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Delhi and Pondicherry.

(c) and (d) Financial assistance is already being provided to States / U.Ts for Computerisation of Land Records. So far, 60 projects have been sanctioned and funds amounting to Rs. 13,78 crores as 100% Central Grant have been sanctioned for these projects.

Credit to Farmers

4248. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to ensure timely and adequate farm credit to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether provisions have been made from Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The steps taken by the Government to ensure timely and adequate farm credit to farmers are as under—

1. Under Service Area Approach (SAA) introduced by Reserve Bank of India from 1989, all villages in the country are

now allocated to the branches of commercial banks and 126 Regional Rural Banks. In addition to these, the remaining 70 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks are allowed to extend finance in their area of operation. All the service area branches of commercial banks and RRBs are now preparing village wise annual credit plans which take into account the requirements of credit for all types of borrowers in the villages including small, medium and large farmers.

2. The Credit requirement of the borrowers for crop loans are based on the scale of finance (for each crop) which is reviewed and fixed every year by a District Level Technical Committee taking into account cost of inputs, labour costs etc. The investment loans (termloans) on the other hand are extended as per the unit cost fixed on the basis of the outlay for a minimum viable unit and reviewed every six months under the aegis of a Standing Committee for the Revision of Unit Costs set up by the NABARD.
3. No margin is insisted upon for agricultural loans upto Rs. 10,000/-. Also for loans above Rs. 10,000/-, margin requirement is 5, 10 & 15 per cent for small, medium and big farmers respectively.
4. No collateral security is required to be provided by the farmer borrower for the loans sanctioned upto Rs. 15,000. In the States where legislation on the basis of Talwar Committee recommendations has been enacted a simple declaration by a farmer can create a charge in favour of the financing bank thus obviating the complicated process of mortgage.
5. Conversion/reschedulement of loans for agriculture and allied activities are allowed to borrowers on account of the failure of crops/damage to the units due to drought, flood and other natural calamities in order to ensure smooth flow of credit to the beneficiaries.
6. Generous refinance facilities are available to the RRBs for supporting