

cost of Rs.2538.79 lakh. Against the central share of Rs.2089.77 lakh, an amount of Rs. 1560.62 lakh has been released so far to the State Government for implementing the projects.

(c) As per approved guidelines of this scheme, traditional milk societies in Kerala, engaged in procurement, processing and marketing of milk are not eligible for assistance.

(d) and (e) This Department has awarded evaluation and impact study of the scheme recently to the Centre for Management Development, Thiruvananthapuram, to assess the need for changing the norms and guidelines of the scheme.

(f) In view of the reply given to part (d) and (e), the question does not arise.

Measures for increasing crop productivity

1269. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government is taking to increase all crop productivity especially in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh like East Godavari, West Godavari and Visakhapatnam areas;

(b) the steps to be introduced to encourage the farmers to improve productivity; and

(c) the incentives to be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):
(a) to (c) Paddy is the main crop grown in larger extent in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh especially East Godavari, West Godavari and Visakhapatnam. To encourage the farmers to improve/increase the productivity of rice, following Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh:

1. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
2. Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice) under macro Management Mode of Agriculture.

Under these schemes, assistance/incentives is provided for various inputs like seeds, agriculture implements, water saving devices, integrated pest management, transfer of crop protection and production technology through demonstrations and training of farmers etc.

Efforts to increase production of pulses

†1270. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made efforts to increase production of pulses in the country during last many years;

(b) if so, the average annual amount spent in this regard by Government during the last three years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) increase in production of pulses during 2008 in comparison to the year 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) was implemented in the country from 1990-91 to 2003-04. However, NPDP was merged into a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) which is in operation in 14 major pulses producing States with effect from 1st April, 2004. In addition National Food Security Mission (NSFM)-Pulses and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) have been launched in 2007-08 and Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) (Revised) in 2008-09.

The annual amount spent/released for two major schemes, during last three years is as under :-

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	ISOPOM	NFSM-Pulses
2006-07	30254.87	-
2007-08	34345.14	10558.785
2008-09 upto 8.12.2008	17106.30	19093.981

(c) The production of pulses has increased from 149.10 lakh tonnes in 2003-04 to 151.20 lakh tonnes during 2007-08.

"Single window" scheme for farmers

†1271. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a lot of shortcomings have been found in the efforts of extending the benefits of advancement of technology to farmers through a "single window" scheme in 2006-07;

(b) whether Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) proposes to refund the money;

(c) whether efforts have been made to rectify the same in 2007-08; and

(d) if so, the details of improvement in selling of agricultural equipments, testing of quality of seed and selling of nursery plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):
(a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) sanctioned 44 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) as a "single window" support system with State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes for availability of diagnostic services, research products emerging from the institution, and technology information for availability to the farmers. During the implementation of the scheme there were certain constraints like full utilization of funds provided for establishment of ATICs, availability of research products from some of the institutes and documentation of feedback of the farmers.

(b) The scheme was funded during 1998-99 to 2003-04 and accordingly the unutilized fund was adjusted for settlement of accounts. There is no further proposal for refund of money by the ATICs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi