

- (iv) To promote, develop and disseminate technologies, through a seamless blend of traditional wisdom and modern scientific knowledge.
- (v) To create opportunities for employment generation for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youth.

The main objectives of the National Bamboo Mission are:

- (i) To promote the growth of the Bamboo Sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies.
- (ii) To increase the coverage of area under Bamboo in potential areas; with appropriate varieties to enhance yields.
- (iii) To promote marketing of Bamboo and Bamboo based handicrafts.
- (iv) To establish convergence and synergy among stake-holders for development of Bamboo and to promote, develop and disseminate technologies.
- (v) To generate employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youth.

Agricultural production

†1031. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that agricultural production in the country is continuously decreasing;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the steps being taken by Government to increase the agricultural production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) According to the data released by Central Statistical Organisation with revised base year of 1999-2000, agricultural production measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product in agriculture including allied sectors of forestry, logging and fishing showed an increase from Rs. 453932 crore in real terms (at 1999-2000 prices) during 2000-01

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to Rs. 516603 crore during 2005-06 except during the year 2002-03 when it was Rs.448740 crore. This decline in Gross Domestic Product in agriculture sector during the year 2002-03 was due to the severe drought that affected several States/regions in the country.

(c) Government is implementing a number of schemes for development of the agriculture sector. Major steps taken to increase agriculture production in the country, *inter-alia*, include:

- (i) enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure;
- (ii) ensuring timely availability of quality inputs;
- (iii) promoting farmer friendly, demand-driven agriculture extension system;
- (iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities;
- (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain;
- (vi) Optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry land/rain fed farming system; and
- (vii) Putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.

Use of old seeds in ISOPOM

1032. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are willing to allow use of seed varieties of older than ten years for demonstration in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in a situation where new varieties are not available; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Integrated