

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Shortfall in agriculture production

3036. SHRI MANGALA KISAN:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that agriculture output fell by 2.2 per cent in the last quarter in 2008-09 from a year earlier;
- (b) if so, whether the foodgrain production during 2008-09 fell much below 2.6 per cent expectations;
- (c) if so, the reasons behind this shortfall; and
- (d) whether during 2009-10 steps would be taken to ensure built-in safeguards so that the projected production is achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (c) Percentage growth in Agriculture and Allied sector during last quarter (January to March) in 2008-09 has increased to 2.7 from 2.2 during the same quarter in previous year (2007-08). The overall decline in annual growth rate from 4.9% in 2007-08 to 1.6% in 2008-09 is mainly due to decline in production of coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds and sugarcane.

(d) Various measures such as advice to State Governments for taking timely action for ensuring availability of quality seeds through Central sector Schemes of Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and promotion of medium and short duration crop varieties to meet contingent situation have been taken by Government to achieve the targets of agriculture production. Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been directed to facilitate extension of weather based Agriculture management plan to the farmers and other stakeholders at the district level.

Under RKVY, the States are incentivized to increase public investment to achieve 4% growth rate in Agriculture and allied sectors in the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

A Central Sector Scheme 'Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds' intends to develop and strengthen the infrastructure facilities for the production and distribution of certified quality seeds.

Expansion of dairy market to neighbouring countries

3037. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any strategy to capture dairy markets of neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether NDDB proposes to set up cooperative milk societies at villages in neighbouring countries;