

(a) whether Government is aware of various diseases in animals particularly Mad Cow disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), the brains of animals particularly cows and buffaloes get destroyed; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that animals particularly cows and buffaloes are not affected by any disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of various diseases in animals, including Mad Cow disease. A number of animal diseases are reported in India, However, Mad Cow disease (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) has never been reported in any part of the country.

(c) and (d) The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE's) in humans is known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), which does not destroy brains of cows and buffaloes.

India is historically free from Mad Cow disease. Therefore, in order to prevent ingress of the disease, all possible measures have been taken, including ban on import of all livestock and livestock products, fresh meat, meat products, tissue, organs and meat and bone meal of ruminant origin from the countries affected by TSE group of diseases. Within the country, use or trade of Meat & Bone Meal (MBM) in ruminant feed is also prohibited. Surveillance on BSE is undertaken. More than 11,000 brain samples from cattle so far tested for BSE have been found negative.

Adequate supply of certified seeds

†2471. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers are not getting adequate supply of certified seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the immediate steps being taken by Government to ensure supply of certified seeds to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) As reported by States the availability of certified/quality seed in the country is 279,72,187 quintals against the requirement of 249,12,019 quintals for the current year 2009-10.

(c) Details are as under :-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

i) Distribution subsidy on certified seed has been enhanced for Rabi and Summer 2009-10 under Government of India programmes viz Rs.700 per quintal or 50% of the cost which ever is less for wheat and rice, Rs.1000 per quintal or 50% cost of seed whichever is less for coarse cereal (excluding maize) and Rs.2000 per quintal or 50% cost of seed whichever is less for oilseeds, pulses and maize.

ii) Distribution subsidy was allowed on Truthfully Labelled seeds as a special case under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

iii) Seed Minikits were allowed under RKVY.

iv) Age relaxation of varieties under National Food Security Mission was allowed.

v) Expeditious transfer of seed was coordinated from surplus to deficit areas as per requirement.

vi) A special review of seed requirement was conducted for late Kharif 2009 and early Rabi 2009 to enable States to capitalize on the soil moisture due to late rains.

vii) A requirement of nearly 3,31,000 quintals for late Kharif for crops such as Urd, Moong, Arhar, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Vegetables, Horsegram, Sunflower, Groundnut and Paddy was tied up.

viii) Similarly tie up was achieved for early Rabi requirement of 4178000 quintals for crops like Toria, Fodder, Gram, Wheat, Peas, Mustard, Potato, Linseed and Lentil.

ix) Quantity of minikits under Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize was doubled in Rabi 2009-10.

Crops loss due to rain in Maharashtra

2472. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK :

SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether heavy rains have affected crops in the country particularly in Maharashtra, this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the production figures of different main varieties of paddy, fruits and vegetables during the last three years and those expected during 2009-10, State-wise;

(c) the details of export of crops that are likely to increase or decrease this year, compared to that during the last two years; and

(d) the assistance provided to the affected farmers of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) Heavy rain have affected Crops in the country including Maharashtra. State reported 50% (8,15,735 ha) damage to paddy, other field crops, fruits and vegetables.

(b) State wise details of the production figures according to final, 4th advance estimate released by the Directorates of Economics & Statistics for the last three years including during 2009-10 (1st advance) and for vegetables & fruits for last three years as furnished by Horticulture Division of Ministry of Agriculture are given in Statement-I and Statement-II (See below).