

Need to encourage oilseed and pulses production

†3250. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to rising edible oilseeds production over the years in the world leading to their declining prices, country's oilseeds producers are faced with adverse impact thereof;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that oilseeds and pulses require less irrigation water than other agri-products; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not starting an additional scheme to encourage production of oilseeds and pulses in the country in view of present situation of water scarcity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per reports of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) available up to the year 2007, there has not been any significant increase in the world's oilseeds production during the period 2005-07. Further, as annual production of oilseeds in the country is considerably lower than its projected demand, the marginal increase in the world's oilseeds production is not likely to have any adverse impact on the producers of oilseeds in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir. Oilseeds and pulses are mostly grown in rainfed conditions in the country. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research developed several short duration and drought tolerant/resistant varieties of oilseeds and pulses for cultivation under moisture stress conditions in the country.

(d) Government of India is implementing various schemes to encourage cultivation of oilseeds and pulses as given below:

1. Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds and pulses growing States.
2. National Food Security Mission - Pulses launched in 2007-08 being implemented in 171 identified districts of 14 major pulses growing States.
3. Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme which provides assistance to the States not covered under ISOPOM.
4. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) under which States can undertake oilseeds and pulses development programme.

Reforms in NARS

†3251. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that keeping in view the declining productivity of agricultural soil and constant depletion of water in the country National Agriculture Research System (NARS) needs to be revamped;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government has issued any guidelines for reforms in this system during last years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and when these guidelines were issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The ICAR is already addressing these issues through its All India Coordinated Research Projects involving ICAR institutes and State Agricultural Universities located in different agro-ecological regions of the country and has developed site specific nutrient management and ground water recharge measures to tackle such situations. ICAR is also consistently taking up research in frontier areas, to develop cutting-edge technology.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Payment of crop insurance compensation

3252. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the payment of the crop insurance compensation of Kharif 2008 season for an amount of Rs. 356.58 crores is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) which collects insurance premium under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is entrusted with the responsibility to make payment of crop insurance compensation to farmers under the scheme. The financial liability on account of claims (for food & oilseeds crops) over and above 100% of premium and for annual commercial/ horticultural crops above 150% of the premium collected is shared by the Govt. of India and the State Governments in the ratio of 50:50.

Total claims amounting to Rs.1496.22 crore including Central and State Government share of Rs.946.60 crore and Rs.405.65 crore respectively, for Kharif 2008 season and other seasons, under NAIS, are pending for settlement with the AIC.