

116.74 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured as on 24.11.2009. against 106.98 lakh tonnes procured in the corresponding period in KMS 2008.09. At the estimated level of procurement of 260 lakh tonnes of rice (as informed by the Food Corporation of India), the stock of rice in the Central Pool is estimated to be sufficient to meet the current level of requirement of targeted public distribution system and other welfare scheme.

Veterinary services at door steps

922. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that with the advent of commercialization, the traditional livestock farmers now rear more than 3-4 cows which are highly productive and they expect veterinary services at door-step owing to the constraints in transporting animals to veterinary institutions;

(b) if so, whether Government of Kerala has made a proposal to include schemes for providing round the clock and door-step veterinary services to the farmers under the Central Government schemes to provide assistance to such activities in future to support commercial dairying in the State; and

(c) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding" (NPCBB) for genetic upgradation of bovine population on priority basis. One of the objectives of the scheme is to arrange delivery of quality breeding inputs and services at the farmers' door-step. Kerala is participating under the scheme since 2001-02 and central assistance to the tune of Rs. 33.77 crore has been released to the State including Rs. 300.00 lakh released during current year.

Scheme for improvement of Indian breed of cows

†923. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for improvement of breed, increasing number and protection of cows of Indian breed is operational; and

(b) if so, the details of increase in milk production from domestic breed of cows in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding" (NPCBB)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on 100% grant-aid-basis from October, 2000 over a period of ten years, in two phases each of five years, with an allocation of Rs. 402 crore and Rs. 775.87 crore for Phase-I and Phase-II respectively, NPCBB envisages genetic upgradation of bovine population on priority basis and also has focus on development and conservation of indigenous breeds. Increase in milk production from indigenous breed of cows in the last three years is given in the following table:—

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Milk Production (in million tonnes)	20.41	20.92	21.73

Implementation of Kuttanad and Idukki packages

924. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has submitted a number of projects worth Rs. 277 crores for the Kuttanad and Idukki packages as recommended by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether out of this, project worth Rs. 25 crores only has been approved as there are no corresponding or suitable schemes in Central Government;

(d) if so, whether State Government has sought an additional allocation under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana to the tune of Rs. 105 crores over and above the normal entitlement for implementation of the said projects; and

(e) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Government of Kerala has submitted 26 projects involving an amount of Rs. 390.36 crore under the package for development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system and 23 projects involving an amount of Rs. 459.62 crore under the package for mitigation of farmers distress in Idukki District of Kerala.

(c) No, Sir. Central Government has approved projects involving amount of more than Rs. 200 crore under Kuttanad and Idukki packages.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise. The implementation issues in the packages are being sorted out on a continuous basis with Government of Kerala. Various decisions to speed up have been taken in the last review meeting that took place on 23.11.2009.

Harmful effect of toxic inputs in agriculture

925. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: