

(b) if so, the steps taken by NABARD to involve Uttarakhand in bringing about a change from cereal based economy to horticulture/floriculture and medicinal plants based economy;

(c) the total funds available with NABARD for utilization/promotion of horticulture; and

(d) the funds released till date for Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) Yes Sir, NABARD is providing assistance to Uttarakhand, wherein NABARD has recognized horticulture including introduction of poly houses as one of the critical sectors in the economy of the state. To stimulate the credit flow to various sectors including horticulture for the year 2010-11. NABARD has identified potential of Rs. 7029.83 lakh for the state, out of which the physical potential for poly houses of 1000 sq.ft. each is 709 with expected credit flow of Rs. 1805.07 lakh.

(b) The steps taken by NABARD for promotion of horticulture sector in Uttarakhand are: (1) To conduct workshops for setting up of poly house in Udham Singh Nagar and Nainital Districts. (2) Worked out cost of cultivation for 8 high altitude medicinal crop in association with Herbal Research and Development Institute. (3) Horticulture Department Officials trained for preparation of Horticulture projects for the State. (4) Consultancy offered for integrated horticulture development project in the State. (5) Integrated Horticulture development Plan prepared for the State. (6) Uttarakhand Livelihood project under Tribal Development Fund for Guava and Mango crop development in Udham Singh Nagar and Citrus Crop Development in Dehradun District. (7) Support for mushroom production through co-finance.

(c) and (d) The details of the funds refinanced by NABARD and released to Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the year 2007-08 is Rs. 154.67 lakh and Rs. 74.60 lakh and during the year 2008-09 is Rs. 274.47 lakh and Rs. 34.69 lakh respectively.

Decline in population of cows

917. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the latest livestock census data, population of cows is declining in our country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) No, Sir. The number of cows has increased from 1,02,702 thousand in 2003 to 1,10,205 thousand in 2007, which is 7.3%.

(b) Government is implementing comprehensive centrally sponsored scheme "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding" since October, 2000 over a period of ten years in two

phase each of five years duration, with an allocation of Rs. 402 crore and Rs. 775.87 crore for the 1st and 2nd phase respectively throughout the country on 100% grant-in-aid basis. The project envisages genetic up gradation of bovine population on priority basis. The project also has focus on development and conservation of indigenous breeds.

Shortfall in production of foodgrains

918. DR. BARUN MUKHERJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortfall in production of foodgrains is one of the reasons for its price rise;

(b) if so, the quantum of shortfall, itemwise; and

(c) the steps taken to counteract it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the demand projected for the year 2009-10 by the Working Group of Planning Commission for the Eleventh Five Year Plan and the estimated production (2nd Advanced Estimates released on 12.02.2010), the expected shortfall of rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and foodgrains for 2009-10 is given in the table below:—

Crop	Estimated Shortfall for 2009-10 (Million tonnes)
Rice	-7.27
Wheat	+6.02
Pulses	-3.55
Coarse Cereals	-2.38
Foodgrains	-7.19

Note: Negative sign indicates shortfall of estimated production over projected demand and positive sign for excess production over projected demand.

(c) Government has launched various schemes to enhance the production and productivity of foodgrains in the country. Major initiatives in this regard include Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Crop Development Programme for rice and wheat under Macro Management of Agriculture, Micro-Irrigation. Increased availability of concessional credit and availability of improved seeds and fertilizers to the farmers to increase foodgrains production.

Further, despite decline in production of foodgrains, the position of stocks of rice and wheat in the Central Pool is comfortable. In Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2008-09 and 2009-10, there has been record procurement of 226.89 lakh tonnes and 253.82 lakh tonnes of wheat in the