

(b) The production of sugarcane during 2008-09 and 2009-10 has declined mainly on account of shortfall in area coverage due to shift from sugarcane to other foodgrain crops, decline in productivity due to delayed/deficient rainfalls and high percentage of ratoon area in overall area under sugarcane in some of the major sugarcane growing states, etc.

(c) The details of quantity and value of sugar imported during 2008-09 and 2009-10 is given in the table below:—

Year	Sugar Imported	
	Quantity (Lakh tonnes)	Value (Rs. crore)
2008-09	3.86	583.16
2009-10 (April – October, 2009)	11.71	2414.19

(d) In order to encourage farmers to increase the farming of sugarcane, Government is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) in various sugarcane growing States of the country including Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. The main thrust of the scheme is on transfer of improved technologies to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of farm implements, enhancing seeds production and pest management measures etc. To give more flexibility to the states and implements the scheme on the basis of states' priorities and requirements, this scheme has been cludded under the Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA). In addition, The Government of India provides 100% financial support for organization of front line demonstrations, national level trainings and breeder and seed production through Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities.

Further, in order to check shift in cultivable area from sugarcane to other crops and to ensure that cultivation of sugarcane is not rendered unattractive and unprofitable vis-à-vis wheat and rice, the Government has also approved fixation of higher Fair and Remunerative Prices (FRP) of sugarcane for 2009-10 sugar season at Rs. 129.84 per quintal as compared to Statuary Minimum Price (SMP) of Rs. 81.18 per quintal fixed for the previous sugar season.

Research and development institute for rice farming

904. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a proposal made by the eminent agriculture scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan about the need to set up a below-sea level research and development institute for rice farming at Kuttanad in Kerala; and

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

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Dr. Swaminathan has recommended to the Kerala State Government for setting up of an International Centre for Below Sea Level Farming in Kuttanad, which in turn can become a resource centre even for countries such as Bangladesh and Maldives, which are similarly placed in terms of farming options as is Kuttanad. Presently two centers, namely, Moncombu Rice Research station and Kumarakam Regional Agricultural Research Station of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) located below sea level are conducting research related to the problems of this region. The proposal is under examination of this department.

Second Green Revolution

905. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to bring about a Second Green Revolution in order to enhance the production and productivity in the agricultural sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken in this direction?

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

(a) and (b) For revitalization of agricultural sector, improvement in production and productivity, stepping up the growth rates of the sectors, enhancement of the incomes of the farmers, etc., the Government has already taken many initiatives like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, setting up of National Rainfed Area Authority and Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, Micro Irrigation, Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, Comprehensive Credit Package, Debt Waiver Scheme, Revival of Cooperative Credit Institutions, Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses, etc. Further, the Government has announced a National Policy for Farmers in 2007, incorporating many of the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers that are aimed at the revival of the Indian agriculture with special emphasis on the economic well being of the farmers. Moreover, in keeping with an announcement contained in the address by her Excellency, the President of India regarding urgent steps towards 'Second Green Revolution', following additional proposals have been made in the Union Budget 2010-11 to give fillip to the agricultural sector:—

1. Rs. 400 crore provided to extend the green revolution to the eastern region of the country comprising Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Eastern UP, West Bengal and Orissa.
2. Rs. 300 crore provided to organise 60,000 "pulses and oil seed villages" in rain-fed areas during 2010-11 and provide an integrated intervention for water harvesting,