

1	2	3	4
33.	Lakshadweep	19.11.2007	Nil
34.	Pondicherry	23.11.2009	Nil
35.	Chandigarh	15.11.2009	Nil

*23 cases of alleged suicide by farmers.

Research on agro-products

925. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the agricultural products on which biotechnology research is being undertaken;
- (b) the products with respect to which research is complete;
- (c) the agro-products which Government is considering for commercialization; and
- (d) the details of decision taken by Government in respect of Brinjal?

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

(a) Biotechnology research is in progress at various institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in some of the important crops which include cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, fruits and vegetables etc.

(b) Transgenic Bt cotton variety (Bikaneri Narma) and four improved varieties: two in rice (Samba Mahsuri and Improved Pusa Basmati-1), one in maize (QPM Vivek Hybrid-9) and one in pearl millet (HHB 67) have been released after incorporation of desired traits using marker assisted selection.

(c) Products reflected in answer to question (b) above are being commercialized.

(d) The Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests organized national consultations chaired by the Minister of Environment and Forests (MoEF) at seven locations. On February 09, 2010, it was decided to impose a moratorium on commercialization of Bt brinjal until all concerns expressed by the public, NGOs, scientists and the State Governments are addressed adequately. The matter is now pending consideration of the GEAC.

Second Green Revolution

926. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the President of India in her Republic Day address, has stressed for Second Green Revolution to ensure food availability;
- (b) if so, the steps taken or being taken towards this goal;
- (c) whether there will be a time-frame to do so; and

(d) whether it would be major solution of the problem or it will be one among the several steps?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) 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 organize 60,000 "pulses and oilseed villages" in rain-fed areas during 2010-11 and provide an integrated intervention for water harvesting, watershed management and soil health, to enhance the productivity of the dry land farming areas.
3. Rs. 200 crore provided for sustaining the gains already made in the green revolution areas through conservation farming, which involves concurrent attention to soil health, water conservation and preservation of biodiversity.
4. Banks have been consistently meeting the targets set for agriculture credit flow in the past few years. For the year 2010-11, the target has been set at Rs. 3,75,000 crore.
5. In view of the recent drought in some States and the severe floods in some other parts of the country, the period for repayment of the loan amount by farmers extended by six months from December 31, 2009 to June, 30, 2010 under the Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme for Farmers.

6. Incentive of additional one per cent interest subvention to farmers who repay short-term crop loans as per schedule, increased to 2% for 2010-11.

All the above initiatives are aimed to enhance the prosperity of the farmers and food security of the Nation.

Restarting of closed fertilizer units

†927. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Group of Ministers had decided in October, 2008 to restart the eight closed fertilizer units of Barauni, Gorakhpur, Talcher, Korba, Haldia, Ramagundam, Durgapur and Sindri;

(b) if so, whether at present the work has been started in these fertilizer units;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether these closed fertilizer units are a cause for scarcity of manure/fertilizers in the country and imported fertilizers cost more to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Pursuant to Cabinet decision dated 30.10.2008, it has been decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed public sector fertilizer units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) subject to assured availability of natural gas, to meet the emerging demand production gap of urea in the country. An Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) has been constituted with the mandate to evaluate all investment options for revival of the closed units of FCIL/HFCL and to make suitable recommendations for consideration of the Government. ECOS has considered various possible investment options for revival of each of the closed units and have finalized its recommendations regarding the suitable options. The recommendations of ECOS are under consideration of the Government.

(d) The revival of closed plants is likely to reduce the supply and demand gap regarding availability of urea in the country. As regards prices of urea to the farmers, urea is made available to farmers at same maximum retail price irrespective of imported or indigenously produced.

Availability of fertilizers for Kharif season

928. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.