

- (iv) Plant variety protection, farmers' rights and movement of seed in international trade.
- (v) Seed health testing and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for Plant Quarantine (SPS) issues.
- (vi) Transgenics and advanced technologies for seed testing.
- (vii) Public-private-partnership and seed security.

The recommendations of the Congress have been circulated to all concerned and are also available on www.seednet.gov.in.

- (d) The Government is providing assistance for seeds under the following schemes:—
 - (i) Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for production and distribution of quality seeds.
 - (ii) National Food Security Mission (NFSM).
 - (iii) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM).
 - (iv) Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA).
 - (v) National Horticulture Mission (NHM).
 - (vi) Technology Mission on Horticulture for North East (TMNE).
 - (vii) Technology Mission on Cotton.
 - (viii) Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta.
 - (ix) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
 - (x) Mega Seed Project.
 - (xi) Scheme for protection of Plant Varieties and farmers' Rights.

Decline in production of agriculture

†909. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is decline in agriculture production in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures Government are planning to take to boost the agriculture production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the 2nd Advance Estimates released on 12.02.2010, the foodgrains production in 2009-10 is estimated at 216.85 million tones which is 17.61 million tones lower than the production of 234.47 million tones during 2008-09. The shortfall in foodgrains production has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

been on account of delayed/deficient monsoon and drought in various parts of the country during kharif 2009-10.

(c) In order to further boost the agriculture production in the country, the Government is implementing a number of schemes namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) etc. The schemes aim at increasing agricultural production by way of area expansion, productivity enhancement, restoring soil fertility, technology demonstration, support for quality seeds of high yielding varieties, resource conservation technologies, integrated nutrient and pest management and infrastructure development through increased investment in agriculture sector.

Stagnation in production of pulses, oilseeds, etc.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been stagnation or very minimal growth in production of pulses, oil-seeds and deep sea marine products during last three years;

(b) whether progressive policies and constant monitoring have not been done of the pulses, oilseeds and deep-sea fisheries sectors;

(c) whether these sectors were ignored in favour of agri-business sectors;

(d) to what extent Government will correct this situation in 2010-2011;

(e) the steps proposed to remove the bottlenecks in policy implementation of these three vital sectors; and

(f) the respective production of these three sectors in last three years?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Various committees and monitoring teams constituted at national, state and district levels monitor the progress of pulses, oilseed development programmes regularly. Inter- Ministerial Empowered Committee on Marine fisheries, constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries) considers issue related to deep-sea fishing matter in its meetings held at regular intervals.

(d) and (e) Ministry has been actively promoting the pulses and Oilseeds through various crop development schemes viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Pulses Oilseeds, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMMA). Comprehensive marine Fishing Policy ensures sustainable exploitation of marine resources in Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).