

Productivity of pulses in India and other countries

*234. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that productivity of pulses in India is 625 kg per hectare;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that productivity of pulses in countries like USA (1908 kg/ha), Canada (1804 kg/ha) and China are three times of India's productivity;
- (c) whether any study has been carried out to find out the reasons behind such a huge difference in productivity of pulses between India and other countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the efforts his Ministry is making to increase the productivity of pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The average productivity of pulses in India is 625 kg per hectare based on 2007-08 data, which is less than the average productivity of pulses of 1908 kg/ha in the USA, 1804 in Canada and 1752 kg/ha in China.

(c) and (d) A group of experts comprising participants from Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and other stakeholders studied the issues and strategies for increasing productivity and production of pulses in June, 2009 at New Delhi. Major recommendations of the group of experts included adequate production of seeds of new varieties, promotion of short duration varieties, judicious use of plant nutrients, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), assured irrigation, suitable trade policy and Minimum Support Price (MSP) supporting pulse growers, utilization of rice fallows for pulses etc. The group of experts also proposed for a new initiative on demonstration of improved production and protection technologies of important pulses in potential states in the form of a pilot project.

Subsequently, an article on a study conducted by the Tata Strategic Management Group on "Raising India's Pulses Rate" was received by Government in October, 2009. The group undertook a study in the area of pulses and looked at some of the best practices prevalent in other countries. The group suggested some measures like market development and ensuring profitability, encouraging production of pulses in rice fallow and intercropping, use of High Yielding Varieties and improving seed replacement rate, proper pest and nutrient management, provision of scheduled and controlled irrigation prevention of harvest losses etc.

Government of India has been actively promoting the production of pulses through various crop development schemes viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme (MMA) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Under these schemes, the farmers are provided assistance for procurement of quality seed, nutrients, plant protection chemicals, farm machinery etc. Capacity building of farmers and transfer of technology to farmers' fields is also ensured through demonstrations and farmers field schools. Government has supported International Crop Research

Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) for popularizing identified hybrid pulses and a project on enhancing production of Chick Pea in rainfed fallow lands.

Based on the recommendations of the group of experts, NFSM Pulses component has been strengthened by merger of ISOPOM Pulses component/ areas with NFSM Pulses which would bring in uniformity and focused approach to pulses cultivation. Secondly, intensive approach for pulses cultivation through block demonstration of technology and its management through accelerated pulses production project (A3P) in potential 1 million hectares of pulses area is targeted for Kharif, 2010 for enhanced production.

Land acquisition for railway track

***235. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether land acquisition process for the entire railway track for Kalyan-Ahmednagar and Ahmednagar-Pune has been completed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total area of land and the number of land-owners coming under this acquisition; and
- (d) by when Kalyan-Ahmednagar and Ahmednagar-Pune railway lines would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) The new lines are not sanctioned. An updating survey for new line from Kalyan to Ahmednagar has been taken up.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Development of Delhi-Bharuch-Surat-Mumbai Industrial corridor

***236. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to her Ministry in regard to development of rail network for various linkages for overall development of Delhi- Bharuch- Surat- Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) along with the proposed Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) of the Indian Railways in view of national interest;
- (b) if so, the action taken thereon so far by the Ministry and status of the said proposal;
- (c) whether the said proposal would be included in the Budget of 2010-11 and budgetary assistance also earmarked; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Status of rail connectivity is as under:-