

crore. Project proposal on Sustainable Livestock Resource Development of Kuttanad involving total project cost of Rs. 13.10 crore envisages bank loan of Rs. 7.86 crore and assistance of Rs. 5.24 crore. Government of India has sanctioned these project proposals with a cost of Rs. 5.85 crore.

(c) For implementation of the above proposals Government of India has so far released Rs. 5.23 crore. Further release of funds would be made after the receipt of the utilization certificate and progress report from the Government of Kerala.

#### **Incentives to small and marginal farmers**

3074. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small and marginal farmers in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government proposes to provide special incentives to farmers particularly small and marginal farmers for procuring agricultural implements and machineries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) According to Agriculture Census 2005-06, the number of small and marginal operational holdings in the country were 2,39,29,627 and 8,36,94,372 respectively and the corresponding figures for Himachal Pradesh were 1,75,651 and 6,36,619.

(b) and (c) Assistance in the form of subsidy at the rate of 25-50 percent of the cost, with permissible ceiling limits, is made available to farmers, including small and marginal farmers, for purchase of agricultural equipment including hand tools, bullock-drawn/power driven implements, planting, reaping, harvesting and threshing equipment, tractors, power tillers and other specialized agricultural machines under the centrally sponsored scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture.

#### **Reforms for involvement of private sector in higher education**

3075. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has stated that reforms in higher education will help to mitigate initial problems of private sector participation in the field;

(b) whether the Planning Commission meeting on Building infrastructure; opportunities and challenges' has stated that, there has been a phenomenal growth in higher education particularly by private players with their contribution being over 50 per cent;

(c) if so, whether he had stated that this is welcome but it has led to litigation involving students and management of the institutions; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps and measures his Ministry is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The present National Policy is against commercialization of education. However, the Government favours the active support and involvement of the not-for-profit private participation for funding and management of educational institutions subject to reasonable surplus earned being ploughed back into the development of institutions. The Eleventh Plan document as approved by the National Development Council, also mentions the need to explore private sector initiatives and various forms of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the education sector. There is a phenomenal growth in higher education with active participation by private peers. As regards litigation between students and management, Government has decided to introduce a Bill in the Parliament to establish a two-tier structure of Educational Tribunals at the State and National levels to adjudicate on the entire gamut of disputes arising in higher education.

#### **Cases of intellectual property rights of Indian crops**

3076. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of intellectual property rights cases of Indian crops filed during 2007 and 2008;
- (b) the number of cases contested relating to property rights during 2007 and 2008;
- (c) the number of cases which were decided in India's favour; and
- (d) whether any study has been made to find out reasons of mounting cases of intellectual property rights being contested since 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No information is available with Government of any case filed abroad relating to intellectual property right of Indian crops during 2007 and 2008.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Damage of crops**

†3077. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that every year crops of Rs. 560 billion get damaged due to lack of harvesting, sorting and proper maintenance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the damage is equal to the Central subsidy being given every year;
- (d) whether Government have made any plan to tackle it; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.