

and integrated use of chemical fertilizers and organics give higher yields as compared to application of organics alone.

Promotion of contract farming

† 2647. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to promote contract farming and leasing out the land under the new agricultural policy;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a draft of some new action-plan has been prepared regarding lands of 76 per cent small and marginal farmers in the country; and

(c) if so, the comprehensive outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) The National Agriculture Policy envisages that the private sector participation will be promoted through contract farming and land leasing arrangements to allow accelerated technology transfer, capital inflow and assured markets for crop production, especially of oilseeds, cotton and horticultural crops.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Sunflower cultivation Bihar

† 2648. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Bihar where sunflowers are cultivated; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to promote cultivation of sunflowers?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) In Bihar, the sunflower is cultivated mainly in Madhyepura, Purnia, Begusarai, Khagaria, Sarsa, Supal, Katihar, Ranchi Gumla, Nalanda, Jehanabad, Vaishali, Samastipur and Monghyr.

In order to promote the Cultivation of oilseeds including sunflower in the State of Bihar, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in the State. Under the programme, financial assistance is provided for the critical inputs like Production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, gypsum-pyrites, micro-nutrients, rhizobium culture etc. to the farmers through State Govts. In addition to this, frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on the farmer's fields to disseminate the improved production and protection technologies.

Less allocation of funds to Crop Insurance Scheme

2649. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of less allocation of funds to Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(b) whether Government will appoint a Committee to study the problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Allocation of funds by the Government for Crop Insurance has been increasing over the years. As against Rs. 144.00 crore and Rs. 215.00 crore allocated for the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively, the allocation has been increased to Rs. 289.00 crore for the year 2000-01.

(b) No such proposal.