

places emphasis on increase in small farm productivity, creating multiple livelihood opportunities through crop-livestock integrated farming systems as well as agro processing and formation of groups for gaining efficiency and economies of scale in farming operations for benefit of small and marginal farmers.

Government has strengthened the farm credit delivery system for providing credit at affordable rate of interest to farmers. The emphasis is on providing timely and adequate credit support to farmers, with particular focus on small and marginal farmers. Under the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008, overdue debt of about 3.01 crore small and marginal farmers has been waived in order to address the problem of their indebtedness and to improve their access to institutional credit.

Government is also implementing a number of plan schemes and programmes for the benefit of farmers, including small and marginal farmers. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has a budget provision of Rs. 15042 crore for different plan schemes during 2010-11. These schemes primarily aim at improving agricultural productivity/production through provision of quality inputs and extension services. The guidelines of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana provide for assistance for development of land, horticulture and generating livelihoods for farmers below poverty line and for special schemes for beneficiaries of land reforms, who are usually small and marginal farmers. Under the Revised Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme, at least 33 per cent of the allocation is required to be made for small, marginal and women farmers. National Food Security Mission also provides that at least 33 per cent of funds be allocated for small, marginal and women farmers. The guidelines for Modified 'Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms Scheme, 2010' provide that at least 50 per cent beneficiaries must be small and marginal farmers.

Further, the guidelines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme have been amended permitting provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities on land owned by small and marginal farmers under the Scheme.

#### **Implementation of Food for All law**

†\*191. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether Government is contemplating to implement Food for All Law in the country; and
- (b) if so, the nature thereof and by when the same is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As announced by the President in her address to the joint session of Parliament on 4-6-2009, the Government is committed to enact a National Food Security Act which, *inter-alia*, envisages entitling every family below poverty line to certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices. Details of the proposed legislation are under consideration of an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted to consider various issues concerning the proposed law on food security. Based on directions of EGoM, the draft Bill would be prepared and the same would be put on the website of the Department for public scrutiny and comments.

#### **R&D in pharma industry**

\* 192. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of research and development (R&D) in the Indian pharma industry; and
- (b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the development of infrastructure facilities with private sector for research and development?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. K. ALAGIRI): (a) and (b) The role of Government of India is that of a facilitator in promoting pharma industry, including Research and Development (R&D), through fiscal and non fiscal measures which impact the pharmaceutical industry. The following fiscal/non-fiscal measures have been taken in this regard:

Government is providing various fiscal measures such as weighted tax deduction @ 150% under section 35(2AB) of Income Tax Act, 1961, and promoting outsourcing research by providing a proposed weighted deduction of 125% to companies engaged in Research and Development. Various non-fiscal measures are being provided by Department of Science and Technology through Drugs and Pharmaceutical Research Programme of Department of Science and Technology and