

foundation seed of new varieties to SHGs; (iii) Train SHGs in induced fish seed breeding, production and availability of seed and fish seed feed; (iv) Put in place appropriate mechanisms so that farmers have greater control of the market channels and improve profit opportunities through SHGs; (v) Support SHGs to export on competitive terms by spreading awareness of the opportunities available for external agricultural trade and for value addition; (vi) Promote SHGs at the production end of the farming enterprise by encouraging groups for consolidating farming activities and also for improving access to credit; and (viii) Associate SHGs in Farmers' companies registered under the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2002 as stakeholders and not just as shareholders.

As per the information provided by the State Government, 227838 nos. of Rythu Mitra Groups, with small, marginal and tenant farmers as members, have been formed in Andhra Pradesh. Further, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" popularly known as ATMA Scheme, 1258 Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) have been mobilized in Andhra Pradesh, during the last 5 years. The corresponding figure for FIGs in the entire country is 56133.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has no scheme for providing funds directly to farmers' NGOs.

**Allocation of funds under Intensive Dairy Development Programme**

†1338. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds are not being released in time by Government under the Intensive Dairy Development Programme; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No Sir. Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.