

under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister have been constituted in 2008. As per the information received from States/UTs, as on 31.12.2009, an area of 69.92 lakh acres has been declared surplus, of which 61.40 lakh acres taken possession off and 50.03 lakh acres of land distributed to 56.48 lakh beneficiaries.

The reasons for rise in agricultural labourers are the growing population and fragmentation of holdings which compels farmers to sell their unviable land holdings and moving to alternative vocations including one of being agricultural labourer. Besides this, as pointed out by the "National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector", manual employment days per hectare have increased from 341 to 389 during the period from 1993-94 to 2004-05 despite enhanced mechanization, irrigation etc.

Impact of climate change

‡2121. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study regarding changing nature of monsoon along with the impact of climate changes upon agricultural sector in the country and how for agricultural production/yield has been affected/likely to be affected;

(b) if so, the details thereof, crop-wise and region-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to resolve the issues pertaining to adaptation according to climate changes and low productivity in agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Long-term rainfall analysis has been done by India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology(IITM) and under Network-Programme on Climate Change by Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR). The analysis indicated no long-term changes in the mean annual rainfall of the country. However, spatial variability in rainfall has been noticed. A significant decreasing trend in monsoon rainfall was noticed in the sub-divisions of N.E. India, East Madhya Pradesh including Chhattisgarh. Monsoon rainfall increasing trends were observed along

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

with west coast of India, North West India covering Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh and Delhi. The winter monsoon rainfall has shown significant increase in trends in the sub-divisions of Marathwada, Telanagana, North Interior Kamataka, Central India and in Goa. Simulation analysis results project that wheat yields in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are likely to be affected because of increase in temperature due to climate change. The increase in minimum temperature by 1°C during reproductive stage may reduce the wheat yield by 7-10%.

(c) To resolve the issues related to adaptation and low productivity, strategic research on adaptation and mitigation in crops, livestock and fisheries has been strengthened. Besides, mid-term corrections in farm operations are effected through contingency plans and weather based agro advisories. Capacity building and awareness campaign are also launched to educate the farmers to adopt the measures like frequent irrigation, use of stress tolerant varieties etc. to mitigate the adverse effect of climatic variability including natural calamities like drought and floods.

Scheme to spread awareness on agriculture

2122. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any scheme to spread awareness on agriculture to motivate the small farmers and apple growers of the Hilly States like Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing the following schemes for spreading awareness on agriculture among the small marginal farmers in the country including Apple Growers of Himachal Pradesh:

(i) Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States.

(ji) Mass Media Support to Agriculture.

(jii) Information dissemination through Agri Fairs.