

(d) whether Government would cover all the districts of Uttar Pradesh under the Mission;
and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM), districts are included for development of horticultural crops duly considering the comparative advantage of crops based on agro-climatic conditions, scope for development, extent of area already available under horticulture crops, availability of market infrastructure, avenues for development of infrastructure for Post Harvest Management and potential for exports/presence of Agri Export Zones. Initially during 2005-06, 229 districts were covered under NHM. Subsequently, Districts covered under Special package like Prime Minister's Package for Suicide Prone Districts, Bundelkhand Package and on specific request made by the State Governments with due justification were also included under NHM. Based on these criteria, so far 45 districts of Uttar Pradesh have been included under NHM. There is no restriction in inclusion of Blocks within the approved districts under NHM. Presently, 371 districts have been covered out of total of 482 Districts in the country, where NHM is being implemented. Therefore, no discrimination has been done with Uttar Pradesh in covering the districts under NHM.

(d) and (e) Keeping in view the availability of resources, there is no proposal to cover all the districts of Uttar Pradesh under NHM. Other schemes being implemented with assistance from Government of India such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana have provisions for taking up programmes for development of horticulture. The State Government can, therefore, take up horticulture development programmes under these schemes in the districts, which are not covered under NHM.

Assistance for drought relief in Rajasthan

†2898. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of drought relief provided to Government of Rajasthan for the year 2009-10;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the amount demanded by the State Government; and
- (c) the time by when the remaining amount of the year would be paid to State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Due to deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon, 2009, the Government of Rajasthan declared drought in 27 districts and sought Central assistance of Rs. 12690.99 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for drought relief. Taking into account the report of Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) and recommendations of Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) thereon, the Government released Rs. 1034.84 crores from NCCF to the State Government, subject to adjustment of available balance in the State Government's Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), as determined by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Drought in Rajasthan

2899. DR GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in Rajasthan, 4.29 crore people in 27 districts have been affected by drought but State Government received a paltry Rs. 1,034.84 crores from the Central Government against its demands of Rs. 14,927.37 crores for drought relief works in 2009-10;
- (b) if so, the statistics regarding other drought affected States, their demands and grants sanctioned; and
- (c) the reasons for a step-motherly treatment meted out to Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) During 2009-10, 14 States declared drought/scarcity/drought-like situation in 338 districts mainly on account of deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon, 2009. Kerala declared drought in 14 districts in March, 2010 mainly due to shortage of drinking water and drying up of water sources mainly in hilly areas.

A Statement indicating State-wise details of declaration of drought, assistance sought from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and assistance approved by Government for drought