

funds have been provided for setting up of 32 whole sale markets and 298 rural markets. Total 7.74 lakh farmers have been trained under various horticultural activities.

In Andhra Pradesh, 142 new nurseries were setup during 2005-10. An area of about 1.74 lakh hectare was brought under new gardens of various horticulture crops and 0.57 lakh hectare of old and senile orchards was rejuvenated. An area of 0.09 lakh hectare was covered under organic farming and INM/IPM was adopted in 0.75 lakh hectare apart from setting up of INM/IPM infrastructure. Under the post harvest management component, funds have been provided for setting up of 63 pack houses, 18 cold storage units, 1 refrigerated van and 15 mobile/primary processing units. Under marketing infrastructure, funds have been provided for setting up of 8 wholesale markets and 16 rural markets. Total numbers of 1.95 lakh farmers have been trained under various horticultural activities.

**Development of machineries and technologies for  
small and marginal farmers**

2885. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) is engaged in developing implements, machineries and technologies appropriate for small and marginal farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the higher percentage of marginal and small farmers, ICAR has always given due attention to develop implements, machinery and technologies for these category of farmers through the Institutes and All India Coordinated Research Projects of Agricultural Engineering discipline spread all over the country, addressing region-specific mechanisation needs.

(c) During the last three years, the following important implements, machineries and technologies suitable for small and marginal farmers have been developed/demonstrated:

Animal drawn blade harrow, multi-purpose tool carrier/tool frame, improved puddler, post hole digger, Naveen dibbler, rotary dibbler, zero-till drill, animal operated seed-cum-ferti-drill with planter attachment, pre-germinated paddy seeder, mat type paddy transplanter, manually operated mustard seed-drill, manually operated fertilizer broadcaster, manual hand hoe, twin wheel hoe, paddy cono-weeder, serrated sickle, animal drawn groundnut digger, potato digger, vertical conveyor reaper, tubular maize sheller, pedal operated paddy thresher, groundnut stripper, groundnut decorticator, pedal operated grain cleaner-cum-grader, potato peeler and sheer, processes and equipment for ready to eat various products from soybean, curry leaf stripper, motorised soybean dehuller, low cost bamboo green houses, solar cooker, improved cook stove, solar tunnel dryer, etc.

Village artisans and small scale manufacturers were also trained in the fabrication of some of these implements.

#### **Management of foodgrains production**

†2886. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the year-wise and State-wise target set and actual growth-rate achieved in agriculture sector during last three years and in the current year especially for Jharkhand;
- (b) whether Government would face biggest challenge with regard to food inflation in the next three quarters because there may be reduction in overall agriculture growth-rate; and
- (c) if so, the measures taken for improvement of agricultural growth and management of foodgrains production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) State-wise target of growth rate in Agriculture Sector is not set. A table showing State-wise growth rate achieved during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 including Jharkhand is given in the statement (see below).

(b) No, Sir. Production of Foodgrains has increased from 208.60 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 234.74 million tonnes in 2008-09.

(c) To improve agricultural growth and management of foodgrains production, Government is implementing a number of Schemes in coordination with the State Governments. Some of the