

(a) whether public investments in agriculture sector have declined during last three years in comparison to private investment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase public investments in agriculture in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Public and Private Investment in Agriculture and Allied Sector for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 at 2004-05 prices is as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Investment in Agriculture and Allied Sector		
	Public	Private	Total
2006-07	22978	71422	94400
2007-08	23040	86966	110006
2008-09	24452	114145	138597

Investment (both public and private) in this sector has steadily increased in the last three years.

(c) Government has launched several schemes to increase investments in agricultural sector and for accelerating agricultural growth. The major schemes are as follows:

- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana to incentivise the States to increase public investment in Agriculture sector.
- National Food Security Mission to promote improved production technologies like hybrids, System of Rice Intensification, resource conservation technologies, integrated nutrient, pest and weed management and usage of farm implements.
- Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed to develop and strengthen the existing infrastructure for the production and distribution of certified/quality seeds to farmers.
- National Horticulture Mission for holistic development of horticulture sector duly ensuring forward and backward linkages with the active participation of all the stakeholders.

Aquatic life in running fresh water

†3369. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been sent by Government of Madhya Pradesh (Fish Farmers Development Agency) for implementation of development of aquatic life in the running fresh water; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal would be accorded sanction and funds would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a proposal under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme— “Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture”, for construction of ponds etc. A sum of Rs. 60 lakh as first installment has already been released to the State Government.

Houses for Fishermen

†3370. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted a proposal to Central Government for construction of houses for fishermen of the State under Fishermen Welfare fund being sponsored by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, by when the sanction would be accorded and fund would be released according to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted a proposal for construction of houses etc. for fishermen under the Centrally Sponsored ‘National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen’. The proposal could not be considered as it was incomplete and was not submitted as per the requirements of the scheme.

Purchase of farm land abroad to produce pulses and oilseeds

3371. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hooda Committee constituted by Government has suggested to encourage Indian companies to buy farm lands in other countries for producing pulses and edible oilseeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) In order to insulate the people, particularly the poor, from rapid rise in prices of food and essential commodities, the Government constituted a ‘Core Group’ which *inter-alia* constituted “Work Group on Agriculture Production” under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Haryana, The recommendations of the Working Group have not been finalised.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.