

Environmental impact on fish

3372. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any project has been sanctioned recently to study environmental impact on fish;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had entrusted a study entitled "Assessment of fisheries with regard to water quality in the river Ganga and Yamuna" to the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore during 2008 to 2009-10. In order to assess the impact of water qualities on fisheries, CIFRI during 2008 to 2010 had conducted investigations at selected stations of rivers Ganga and Yamuna with the following objectives:

- (i) fish species richness and diversity in target river,
 - (ii) quality of riverine environment particularly in polluted river stretches identified by CPCB in relation to fishery status,
 - (iii) changes in fish diversity and productivity due to water quality changes and
 - (iv) assessment of fish yield and grading of river stretches.
- (c) The CIFRI, Barrackpore has completed the studies and submitted its final report during April 2010 to the CPCB.

Unremunerative price of raw jute

3373. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that jute growers in the country are facing great difficulties due to unremunerative price of raw jute in the market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the fact that the present market value of Grade V jute is only Rs. 2000.00;
- (d) if so, the details of prevailing market price of various categories of jute, *vis-a-vis*, the increased cost of inputs;
- (e) whether the Ministry, in view of the above, is considering to increase the Minimum Support Price of raw jute; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Government of India fixes Minimum Support Price

(MSP) for certain agricultural commodities including Raw Jute on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. The CACP while recommending MSP considers all the relevant factors including the overall demand-supply situation; market prices-both domestic and international, status of Jute economy and cost of production. The Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government is in the nature of a minimum guaranteed price for the farmers offered by the Government for their produce in case the market prices fall below that level. The MSP for Raw-Jute for TD-5 variety Ex-Assam is fixed at Rs. 1575 per quintal. However, the All India total cost of production for Raw Jute is worked out (projected by CACP) at Rs. 1312 per quintal for 2010-11 season.

(c) and (d) The month end Wholesale prices of TD-5 grade for raw Jute in July 2010 was ruling in the range of Rs. 2500-Rs. 3000 per quintal which is much higher than the MSP of Rs. 1575 per quintal for the current season.

(e) and (f) The Government has already increased the MSP for TD-5 grade of raw Jute ex-Assam from Rs. 1375 per quintal for 2009-10 to Rs. 1575 per quintal for 2010-11, which is higher by Rs. 200 per quintal (or 14.5%) as compared to previous season.

Soil erosion and land degradation

3374. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the total geological areas affected by soil erosion and land degradation, State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to check the same during the last three years; and
- (c) the achievements made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Geological areas are basically physical attributes of land from a natural perspective. The study conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), indicates that soil erosion and land degradation has affected about 146.82 million ha. of geographical area in the country. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) With a view to prevent soil erosion and land degradation, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acid Soils (RADAS) and Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA) across the country. Under these programmes, during last three years (2007-08 to 2009-10), an area of 1.96 million ha. has been developed with a total expenditure of Rs. 1685.08 crore.