

Distribution of breeder seeds and planting materials

3360. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research has produced and distributed 7340 tonnes of breeder seeds and over 25 planting materials;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been made to find out the actual benefits for the farmers, growers, planters, etc. in terms of better yields;
- (c) whether this was a one-time exercise or this is an on-going annual practice;
- (d) the criteria for identifying prospective users; and
- (e) whether rain-fed crop backward districts of Vidarbha like Yavatmal were covered or proposed to be covered in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. ICAR has produced more than 7340 tones of breeder seed of field crops and over 25 lakh planting materials of various horticultural crops. The breeder seed is made available to different seed agencies for the production of foundation and certified seed to be made available to the farmers.

(b) It has been established through Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) in different crops that quality seed alone contributes 15-20% in the yield improvement.

(c) The production of breeder seed is a regular annual activity. The indents of breeder seed received from various agencies, through Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) are catered to through the project AICRP-NSP (Crops).

(d) ICAR, normally produces breeder seeds as per the indent of DAC which is an aggregation of indents of state governments, private seed companies and DAC itself.

(e) Indents are prepared state-wise, and reflect state-wide requirements.

Organic farming policy

3361. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has an organic Farming Policy for the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including implementation;
- (c) if not, whether Government would initiate steps for adopting an Organic Farming Policy;
- (d) whether any State Government had an organic Farming Policy; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Government has a National Policy on organic farming which

seeks to promote technically sound, economically viable, environmentally non-degrading and socially acceptable use of natural resources in favour of organic agriculture.

(b) To facilitate, encourage and promote organic farming in the country the Government has launched a “National Project on Organic Farming” (NPOF) during 2004-05.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Nine States have formulated organic farming policy, *i.e.*, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Mizoram, Sikkim and Uttarakhand.

Acreage under sowing of different crops

3362. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total acreage under sowing of wheat, rice, sugarcane, cotton, oilseeds and pulses, during last five years, year-wise and crop-wise;

(b) the total production during above period, year-wise and crop-wise;

(c) the total quantum of increase/decrease of the acreage and production during above period, year-wise and crop-wise;

(d) the quantum of production per hectare; year-wise and crop-wise; and

(e) the correlation between acreage under sowing and production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Details of area, production and yield (per hectare production) of rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, cotton and sugarcane during the last five years, *i.e.* 2005-06 to 2009-10 alongwith increase(+)/decrease(-) in their area/acreage and production over the previous year are given in the Statement (See below).

(e) During the period 2005-06 to 2009-10, production of rice, wheat and sugarcane has been highly correlated with area/acreage under sowing, whereas in case of pulses, oilseeds and cotton, the increase in production during the above period has not been keeping pace with increase in the area coverage.