

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government protects the rights of traditional fishermen through various centrally sponsored and central sector schemes such as Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, Development of Marine Fisheries, infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations, National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, Strengthening of database and Geographical Information System for fisheries sector and National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). Andhra Pradesh Marine Fisheries Regulation Act, 1995 (APMFRA) also recognizes the exclusive rights of traditional fishermen to fish in coastal waters.

(c) During Eleventh Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 3261.94 lakh was allocated to Andhra Pradesh under the schemes for welfare of fishermen.

(d) The continuing activities for the welfare of fishermen include (i) Protecting their rights by implementing the APMFR Act, Rules and Regulations (ii) Implementing development and welfare schemes like motorization of traditional crafts, relief cum savings, insurance, housing for fishermen etc. (iii) providing financial assistance for upgrading the facilities at fishing harbours and fish landing centers and (iv) assistance for post harvest and marketing infrastructure.

Conservation of salt resistant variety of paddy

2645. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that most of the salt resistant paddy varieties of Bengal have become extinct;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps for conservation of traditional salt resistant paddy varieties; and

(d) fresh steps taken by Government to make available salt resistant varieties to the farmers of Sunderban delta keeping in view increased salinity due to cyclone Aila?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Traditional salt-resistant paddy varieties of Bengal now occupy lesser area due to the introduction of new high yielding salt-resistant varieties, developed from the older varieties.

(c) The Rice Research Institute at Chinsurah, Hugly West Bengal at its Station, Gosaba; the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute Station at Canning Town and Central Rice Research Institute at Cuttack are conserving many of these traditional paddy varieties, which are also conserved in the National Gene Bank.

(d) The Government of West Bengal, State Seed Corporation of West Bengal, Tiger Reserve Project and other Government organizations collected salt tolerant paddy varieties available with different sources and distributed them among farmers of cyclone AILA affected areas. The Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Canning Town

supplied about 14 tonnes salt resistant paddy varieties to the Seed Corporation of West Bengal and other Government organizations for multiplication and cultivation. In the subsequent years after AILA about 16 tonnes of salt resistant paddy varieties were distributed to the farmers by the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Canning Town for cultivation.

Allocation for agricultural development in West Bengal

2646. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total resources allocated by Government for agricultural development in West Bengal during the financial years 1998-2004 and 2004-10, scheme-wise and year-wise;

(b) the amount released against above allotment during above period, scheme-wise and year-wise; and

(c) whether Government has plans of increasing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The amount allocated and released to West Bengal, under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, during the years 1998-99 to 2009-10 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

From the above mentioned statement, it may be seen that the allocations have been increasing over the years.

Statement

The amount allocated, released and expenditure under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implement in the West Bengal during 1998-99 to 2009-10

I. Technology Mission on Cotton

S.No.	Year	Allocation	Release
1.	2000-01	127.50	110.00
2.	2001-02	47.25	15.00
3.	2002-03	15.00	11.86
4.	2003-04	45.00	25.58
5.	2004-05	50.00	38.59
6.	2005-06	75.00	92.77
7.	2006-07	80.00	40.00
8.	2007-08	350.00	138.19
9.	2008-09	250.00	218.61
10.	2009-10	135.00	0.00