

Fertility: Government of Karnataka had submitted a proposal for Rs. 529.55 lakh. However, the proposal could not be approved because unspent balance of funds of previous years are available with the State Government and updated progress and utilization of funds has also not been received from Government of Karnataka.

The proposal to upgrade the Watershed Training Centres at Bijapur and Mysore proposed under Japanese Grant-in-aid at an estimated cost of Rs. 22.00 crore received from the Government of Karnataka has been posed to the Government of Japan through Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

The Department of Watershed Development (DWD), Government of Karnataka submitted a proposal for Rs. 1734.40 lakh for taking up bamboo plantation in 20 districts of the State. Department of Forest in Karnataka, being the nodal implementing agency for National Bamboo Mission (NBM) scheme in the State, considered this proposal and submitted Annual Action Plan (AAP) 2009-10. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation considered this AAP and approved an amount of Rs. 415.00 lakh. Since, the proposal is for a period of five years, the remaining activities can be taken up in the coming years provided the state nodal agency includes respective components of this proposal in its future Annual Action Plans.

Under the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding Programme, State Government submitted a proposal for Rs. 53.48 crore, based on which a total project cost of Rs. 20.07 crore for five years starting from 2008-09 has been approved. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 5.00 crore has been released as first instalment to the State for implementation of the project.

#### **Liberalisation of rules for research in agriculture**

2648. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to further liberalise rules for research in agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that many organisations working in agriculture sector have demanded for the above; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) National Agricultural Research system functions in the country to address the current and futuristic research needs of the farming community. There is flexibility in the research guidelines so as to address the location specific as well as nationally important research needs. This is mainly addressed through various Institutes, Directorates, National Research Centres, network and outreach programmes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Besides, coordinated research programmes which are crop-based, system-based and need-based, also involving

State Agricultural Universities, are incorporated in the system for addressing regionally important research issues. There is a frequent interaction on public private partnership with stakeholders in agricultural research.

#### **Annual growth rate for production of foodgrains**

2649. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has fixed percentage of annual growth rate for production of foodgrains for the coming years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the norms adopted for fixing the annual growth rate;
- (c) whether Government has identified the foodgrains, the production of which can be augmented in order to achieve these targets; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The working Group on 'Crop Husbandry, Agriculture Inputs, Demand and Supply Projections and Agricultural Statistics' for the Eleventh Plan envisaged a target of 2.3% growth per annum for foodgrains.

(c) and (d) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'National Food Security Mission', has been launched from 2007-08 to increase the production of rice by 10 million tons, wheat by 8 million tons and pulses by 2 million tons by the end of the Eleventh Plan (2011-12).

#### **Contract farming**

2650. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to promote contract farming in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the percentage of agricultural land on which contract farming is being carried out;
- (d) the details of the multi-national and Indian companies engaged in contract farming;
- (e) whether farmers of the country have been benefited by the contract farming; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Model Agricultural Produce -