

Mutual cooperation with USA in agriculture sector

†1871. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that during US President Barack Obama's recent visit to the country the issue of mutual cooperation in the field of agriculture cropped up;
- (b) if so, whether any concrete proposal regarding the same has been prepared by mutual consent by both the countries; and
- (c) if so, the details of its format?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in March, 2010 between India — USA for Agriculture Cooperation and Food Security under the Indo-US Agriculture Dialogue. To further deepen and enhance the mutual cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sector, the delegation level and ministerial level talks were held during the visit of US President Barack Obama.

(b) and (c) Further, India and USA have signed an Implementing Agreement (IA) on Technical Cooperation for Study of Dynamical Seasonal Prediction of India Summer Monsoon Rainfall on 6th November, 2010 in the context of visit of President Barack Obama to India. Under the agreement, appropriate models are to be built for fuller understanding of the Indian summer monsoon and associated rainfall characteristics. The present technical cooperation agreement is scheduled to be in place for the next 5 years. The joint research efforts between the scientists of India and USA will be focusing initially on Monsoon — 2011 predictions through carrying out extensive numerical experimentation in India involving a global coupled ocean — atmospheric model at 28 km. grid scale.

Technologies for small and marginal farmers

1872. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and percentage of small and marginal farmers in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether cost effective technologies suitable for small land holdings have been developed by the agricultural research institutions in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of steps taken by Government to promote and assist small and marginal farmers to adopt such technologies; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.