

### **Pension for small and marginal farmers**

1868. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Policy for farmers envisages farmers welfare measures to be implemented in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is aware that Kerala State Government has initiated a small beginning in tune with this objective providing a small pension to the small and marginal paddy farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government will consider to initiate such a pension programme to small and marginal farmers at a National level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007 envisages economic wellbeing of farmers through various broad based measures which *interalia*, include asset reforms, support services, measures for special category of farmers, special category of farming, and special regions, etc.

(b) and (c) Government of Kerala has launched a Scheme named “*Kissan Abhiman*” in the year 2008-09. Initially the membership is limited to 13,696 paddy farmers only. A member of the scheme who has completed 60 years of age and who owns land not exceeding 1 hectare and whose livelihood is wholly dependent on agricultural income is eligible for a monthly pension of Rs. 300/-. Assistance of Rs. 25,000 is given to the member of marriage of his/her daughter, limited to only one marriage and 250 members in a year.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government. The Government is already implementing welfare schemes like the National Old Age Pension Scheme and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana.

### **Effect of chemical fertilizers on soil fertility**

1869. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made on reduction of soil fertility due to use of chemical fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?