

For increasing productivity and production of food grains in the country, various Crop Development Schemes and Programmes, namely; National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme for Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals under Macro Management of Agriculture and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture through State Governments. In addition to the above schemes, during the current year, *i.e.* 2010-11, two new programmes for bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India and Integrated Development of 60000 Pulses and Oilseeds Villages in rainfed areas have been initiated under RKVY. National Food Security Mission has been strengthened from 1.4.2010 with the merger of pulses component of ISOPOM and inclusion of two new potential States namely; Assam and Jharkhand for pulses production. A new programme "Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P)" in the form of block demonstrations has also been started to cover 1000 units of 1000 hectares each of five pulses crops in 16 pulse growing States of the country. Further, land development and soil health/soil fertility have also been ensured through implementation of centrally sponsored schemes such as Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soil and the National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility etc.

Review of functioning of APMC

1735. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether at the annual meeting of Chief Secretaries of States held on 4th February, 2011 Prime Minister stated that "corruption and inflation hurt growth momentum" in the country and suggested "waiving of mandi taxes, octroi and local taxes, etc." to control inflation in the country;
- (b) if so, the action Government proposes to take in this regard; and
- (c) whether Government also proposes to review the functioning of the "Agriculture Produce Market Committee Act" so as to bring down the prices of essential commodities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (d) In the second annual conference of Chief Secretaries organized on 4th February 2011 by

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Prime Minister had inter-alia stated that inflation poses serious threat to the growth momentum. He had also stated that corruption strikes at the roots of good governance and it is an impediment to faster growth. He had further stated that there seems to be a strong case for waiving mandi taxes, octroi and local taxes, which impede the smooth movement of essential commodities.

The Government has taken various measures to control inflation, which include adopting proper fiscal, monetary and trade policies and steps to enhance agriculture production.

In order to provide the farmers with the choice of competitive marketing channels for sale of their produce at remunerative price, Ministry of Agriculture has circulated a Model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003 to all the States and Union Territories for its adoption. The Model Act provides for alternative marketing channels such as contract farming, direct marketing, consumers/farmers markets, setting up of markets in private and cooperative sectors, e-trading etc.

Ministry of Agriculture has conveyed to all States and Union Territories (U.T.s), that assistance for creation of market infrastructure under the scheme of National Horticulture Mission as well as the scheme of Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization for projects promoted by the state agencies, would be released only to those States/U.T.s, which have waived market fee in respect of perishable horticultural commodities and permitted direct marketing by farmers to consumers, processing units, bulk buyers and providers of cold chain facilities.

Bumper production of potato

1736. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of potatoes has been harvested this year;
- (b) if so, whether this has adversely impacted farmer remuneration and can lead to potato wastage; and