

- (a) how many States in the country have introduced pension and family insurance schemes for the farmers;
- (b) the essential features of these schemes; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to introduce a pension scheme for the small and marginal farmers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Need to increase production of foodgrains**

490. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that food prices are perpetually on the increase;
- (b) whether Government is also aware of the fact that the problem of food inflation can not be solved unless foodgrains are produced in abundance; and
- (c) if so, the measures being visualized in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) Government is constantly monitoring the food prices in the country. Several measures have been taken including ensuring adequate availability of food items such as vegetables, moong, masoor, maize etc. As a result food inflation has come down from 13.07% (provisional) on 29.01.2011 to 11.05% during the week ended 5th February, 2011.

For increasing productivity and production of foodgrain crops in the country, various Crop Development schemes and Programmes like National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulses, Maize and Oilpalm (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 Department of Agriculture and Cooperation through State Governments.

In 2010-11, in addition to above mentioned schemes, two new programmes relating to 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 with the merger of pulses component of ISOPOM and inclusion of two new potential States of Assam and Jharkhand for Pulses production. A new programme Accelerated Pulses Production programme (A3P) in the form of block demonstrations has been started to cover 1000 unit of 1000 hectare each of

five pulses crops in 16 pulses growing States of the country. As per second advance estimate compare to previous year food grain production has significantly increased particularly for pulses and oilseed crops.

#### **Purchase of agricultural production by Government**

491. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will come forward to purchase the agricultural production directly to avoid the role of middlemen who cause increasing the rate of those production in the market and less remuneration for the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) Under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India has taken steps to enhance the reach of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies for making procurement of wheat and paddy from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP). It has also allowed the involvement of cooperative societies and self-help groups to enhance the reach of procurement from small and marginal farmers under MSP system. Similarly, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) along with Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) have been designated to carry out procurement of identified pulses and oilseeds at MSP from the farmers. Sufficient numbers of procurement centres are opened and wide publicity is given for the procurement system under PSS. Government is also implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of perishable agriculture and horticulture commodities, which are not covered under PSS.

#### **Decline in production of pulses**

†492. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that production of pulses is falling day-by-day;

(b) whether Government is also aware that farmers are preferring the cultivation of cash crops like wheat, rice, soya and sugarcane as prices of these essential crops are increasing in the market and more remunerative to them;

(c) the details of quantum of pulses being imported from other countries; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.