

Statement-II

*Availability of major fertilizers in Himachal Pradesh during 2009-10
(as per FMS)*

(In '000 Tonnes)

District	Urea	DAP	MOP	Complexes
Bilaspur	2.59	0.02	0.00	0.89
Chamba	2.29	0.00	0.02	0.39
Hamirpur	3.47	0.04	0.02	0.86
Kangra	12.06	0.62	0.03	4.29
Kinnaur	0.05	0.00	0.06	0.22
Kullu	2.33	0.23	1.10	3.03
Lahaul and Spiti	0.18	0.10	0.00	0.45
Mandi	6.11	0.03	0.29	2.80
Shimla	6.20	0.04	3.62	18.35
Sirmaur	4.57	0.21	0.00	1.67
Solan	4.98	0.58	0.03	1.49
Una	9.17	0.79	0.06	3.82
TOTAL	53.99	2.65	5.24	38.27

Scheme for promotion and protection of potato crop in Bihar

478. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount sanctioned for Bihar for implementing centrally sponsored programme for promotion and protection of potato crop in last three years including current year;
- (b) how many farmers have benefited under this scheme in the State; and
- (c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the country including Bihar for the holistic development of horticulture. Under NHM,

assistance is not provided for cultivation of vegetables including potato in open field conditions. However, assistance is provided for vegetable seed production and development of seed infrastructure under the Public and Private Sector.

During last three years including current year, an amount of Rs. 472 lakh has been sanctioned for production of vegetable seed in 1494 ha area under NHM in Bihar. Development of seed infrastructure is a project based activity. So far, no funds have been sanctioned for Development of Seed infrastructure in the State.

(b) and (c) During the period, up to September, 2010, 2057 farmers have been benefited in the State under vegetable seed production programme. Vegetable seeds produced include pea, cowpea, brinjal, okra, tomato, carrot, radish etc.

Need of technologically empowered crops

479. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India needs high yielding and technologically empowered food crops which are weather resistant, salinity tolerant, targeted pest-resistant to feed its people and livestock; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps to be taken in this direction in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ICAR is taking steps to develop varieties resistant to various biotic and abiotic stresses in different crops. Some of the important varieties having resistance/tolerance to abiotic stresses developed in different food and fodder crops are given in Statement (*See* below). Now the biotechnological tools are being used to hasten the breeding processes to develop varieties resistant to biotic and abiotic stresses. In this process varieties like Improved Pusa Basmati 1 and Improved Samba Mahsuri in rice and Improved HHB 67 in pearl millet resistant to bacterial leaf blight and downy mildew respectively have been developed. Bollworm resistant Bt cotton hybrids have been developed which provide seed cake meal from the harvested cotton seed. Several other crops/varieties are at different stages of development with different genes for disease and pest tolerance.

ICAR has also initiated a new scheme entitled "National Initiative on Climatic Resilient Agriculture". The scheme has three components, (i) strategic research on adaptation and mitigation on important grain and horticulture crops critical for food security, livestock and fisheries, (ii) technology demonstration in 100 most vulnerable districts with best bet practices to cope with current climate variability and (iii) awareness and capacity building of different stakeholders (scientists, policy makers, extension staff and farmers) on climate change.