

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Ministry of Agriculture does not maintain database on distribution of land among Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

(b) Assistance is provided to State Governments for improvement of irrigation facilities through schemes/programmes like (i) Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, (ii) Command Area Development and Water Management Programme, (iii) Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies.

(c) Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has taken up various initiatives and intensified implementation of interventions under National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for overall development of agricultural land and sustaining food security across the country. Watershed Development Programmes are also being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development to increase productivity of agricultural land. Interventions under these Missions / Programmes target land belonging to all categories of farmers including that of SCs and STs.

#### **Committees on agriculture sector**

3265. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of committees formed on agriculture sector during last five years;
- (b) the details of those committees and their terms of reference;
- (c) whether reports and recommendations of those committees have been received;
- (d) the status of those reports; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Four Committees have been formed during last five years.

- (b) The details are given in Statement-I (See below).
- (c) to (e) The status and details on committees are given in statement-II.

**Statement-I**

**Statement-I**

*Details of Committees formed during last five years*

1. Committee of State Ministers Agricultural Marketing to guide the implementation of agricultural marketing reforms initiatives.

**Terms of reference:**

- (i) To persuade various State Governments/Administration of Union Territories to implement the reforms in agriculture marketing through adoption of model APMC Act and model APMC Rules;
- (ii) To suggest further reforms necessary to provide a barrier free national market for benefit of farmers and consumers;
- (iii) To suggest measures to effectively to disseminate market information and to promote grading, standardization, packaging, and. quality certification of agricultural produce.

2. **Standing Committee of Seeds Producers**

**Terms of reference:**

- (i) To work out State-wise requirement of seeds based on the current Seed Replacement Ratio (SRR) for all major crops, availability of seeds from all three stakeholders viz. SSC, Central Government Agencies like NSC, SFCl and private seed producers and the shortage/surpluses for each crop/varieties.
- (ii) Suggest the measures to fill the gap in case of shortages/deficits either by transferring surplus seeds from other regions or replacement of varieties/ hybrids for which the seed is available in other States/Regions.
- (iii) Identification of newer or more promising varieties/hybrids taking into consideration the yield potential, lesser input requirements and resistance for biotic and abiotic stresses.
- (iv) Close coordination between the SSC/State Agriculture Department and the Central Agencies like NSC/SFCl for identifying the production program for the ensuing seasons taking into consideration the strength and infrastructure availability with each agency.
- (v) Any other items/action points which may improve overall availability of the quality of seeds to the farmers in the country.

**3. Expert Committee for promotion of Organic Farming in the country.**

**Terms of reference;**

- (i) The Committee shall examine the schemes of NPOF, NHM, APEDA and DMI and suggest the activities which can be clubbed together in one single scheme.
- (ii) Formulate a vision document with appropriate implementation strategies for promotion of organic farming in the country during next 10 years.
- (iii) Suggest ways and means to implement the vision.
- (iv) Examine the possibility of low cost alternative certification system such as PGS.
- (v) Examine the possibility of promoting organic based sustainable agriculture, particularly in hilly and tribal areas where input use and market surplus are negligible, with or without certification requirements.

**4. Committee for improving agricultural statistics and to examine use of remote sensing applications in Agricultural Statistics.**

**Terms of reference:**

- (i) Review the current methodology used in Timely Reporting Scheme (TRS), Establishment of an Agency for Reporting of Agricultural Statistics (EARAS), Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS) and General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES) for estimating land use, crop-wise area, irrigated area, yield and production.
- (ii) Assess the problems being faced in observing prescribed methodology, organization and procedures for collection and validation of the data.
- (iii) Suggest ways and means to ensure availability of estimates, which are reliable and collected timely.
- (iv) Suggest institutional framework for improvement of Agricultural Statistics.
- (v) Review experience of Remote Sensing Technology for estimating area and yield of various crops.
- (vi) Suggest measures, techniques and organizational arrangement needed to make satellite data more reliable by ground truthing the same.
- (vii) Other relevant issue relevant for improving reliability, accuracy, standards, timely collection, etc. of Agricultural Statistics.

**Statement-II**

*Status and details on the Committee*

1. **Committee of State Ministers of Agricultural Marketing to guide the implementation of agricultural marketing reforms initiatives.**

**Status:** The report of the committee is yet to be received.

2. **Standing Committee of Seeds Producers**

**Status:** This committee has been constituted to quarterly review seed requirement and supply scenario.

3. **Expert Committee for promotion of Organic Farming in the country.**

**Recommendation and Status:**

The report was submitted to the DAC and some suggestions were incorporated into the EFC of National Project on Organic Farming.

Suggestions of committee-incorporated in EFC document of NPOF are as follows:

- (i) A low cost certification system known as PGS has been incorporated in EFC of NPOF and the programme has already been launched.
- (ii) Suggestions of quality assurance of inputs have been taken and efforts are to standardize various organic inputs.
- (iii) Issues identified for research have been communicated to the ICAR/SAUs.
- (iv) Recommendation for support to research has been accepted and the component has been added to the mandates of NPOF.

4. **Committee for improving agricultural statistics and to examine use of remote sensing applications in Agricultural Statistics.**

**Recommendation:**

The Committee submitted its report in February, 2011. It recommended creation of National Crop Statistics Centre (NCSC) as an autonomous professionally run organization fully funded by the Centre to design, organize and supervise the generation of area and yield estimates at

the State and National levels. It also recommended the expansion of the present Remote Sensing programme and to provide reliable and validated in-season forecasts and end-season estimates of area for a wider range of crops at the, State and National levels; as well as comprehensive and detailed plot level data of land use and crops at the village level.

**Status:** The recommendations of the Committee have been shared with all States for comments.

#### **Making of Patwari Halka number as a unit**

†3266. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN:

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether State Government of Madhya Pradesh had sent the proposal of making Patwari Halka number as the unit of crop insurance;
- (b) whether Government of India has sent its approval to General Insurance Corporation for making Patwari Halka number as unit, if not, by when approval will be accorded; and
- (c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Government of Madhya Pradesh State is already implementing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) at patwari halka and Modified NAIS at village/village panchayat level. In case of Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS), unit of insurance is notified by State Government depending upon the availability of weather stations.

#### **Groundnut milk production**

3267. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether commercial-scale groundnut milk production has been started;
- (b) if so, in which year it was done and progressive adoption in the years from cut-off date;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.