

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) As per study conducted by Central Soil Water Conservation Research and Training Institute (CSWCRTI), Dehradun, nearly 44 per cent of the total area in the country has erosion rates more than 10 tonnes/ha./year.

(b) Over 5.3 billion tonnes of soil and around 8.4 million tonnes of plant nutrients (NPK) are lost every year through water erosion.

(c) and (d) Deterioration of soil fertility due to erosion is caused by deforestation, overgrazing, forest encroachment, shifting cultivation and extension of cultivation to marginal lands, developmental activities like mining and road construction and lack of proper soil conservation practices.

#### **Foreign assistance for dairy sector**

624. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any communication has been received from Canadian Government for joint development of our dairy sector and for genetic research of cows and buffaloes of our country;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard;

(c) the action taken to boost milk production and the target set for next five years;

(d) whether it is proposed to take financial assistants either from World Bank or Asian Development Bank for development of this sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and how much fund out of this would be allocated to Gujarat and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DOAC), Government of India and Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in January, 2009 to strengthen and expand cooperation and public and commercial relations in areas relating to agriculture and allied sectors between the two countries. A Joint Working Group (JWG) has been set up under the said MoU wherein "Identification and registration system for dairy cattle for genetic improvement purposes and traceability initiatives" has been identified as one of the areas for cooperation.

(c) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has proposed a new Central Sector Scheme "National Dairy Plan-I (NDP-I)" envisaged to contribute to meeting the projected national demand of 150 million tonnes of milk by 2016-17 from domestic milk

production through productivity enhancement. In addition Department is implementing following schemes to increase milk production and productivity bovines:—

National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding

Intensive Dairy Development Programme

Dairy Entrepreneurships Development Scheme

Livestock Health and Disease Control

Fodder and Feed Development Scheme.

(d) and (e) NDP-I has a proposed outlay of Rs. 1760 crore comprising of Rs. 1584 crore as assistance from the World Bank and Rs. 176 crore as contribution from Government of India. The scheme is yet to be approved and hence no State-wise allocation has been made.

#### Help to farmers for marketing

625. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is helping farmers to solve their marketing problems;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh in the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for the benefit of farmers in the field of agricultural marketing are as under:—

- (i) **Marketing Research and Information Network (MRIN) scheme** is being implemented since March, 2000 for dissemination of market information to the farmers. The AGMARKNET portal is in public domain and market information in respect of more than 1800 markets is disseminated daily in respect of 300 commodities and 2000 varieties.
- (ii) **Scheme for Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization (AMIGS)** is being implemented since 20.10.2004 with a view to induce large investment in the development of agricultural marketing infrastructure including grading and standardization facilities. Under this scheme credit linked investment subsidy is being provided on the capital cost of marketing and post harvest infrastructure for agricultural commodities and for