

- ii. The doubling works are undertaken when the line capacity of the existing sections gets saturated. The portion between Thiruvananthapuram and Kanyakumari (86.56 Km) has been surveyed for doubling but not found operationally justified at present.

(e) Doubling of Mavelikara-Chenganur (12.30 Km) section on Kottayam route is at advance stage of completion and is expected to be commissioned during 2011-12. For the balance ongoing works of Mulanturutti-Mavelikara via Kottayam, regular meetings are being held with State Government Authorities to expedite land availability and to sort out other issues for expeditious completion of the projects.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Reorientation of farm education

1396. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Vice-Chancellors of various agricultural universities across the country have urged Government that farm education be reoriented to meet global challenges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether farm education has assumed considerable urgency in view of the dismal state of affairs in the agriculture sector; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by Union Government to modernize and improve standards of agricultural universities to meet global challenges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) to (c) Reorientation of farm education is a continuous process which is undertaken through the collective efforts of ICAR and Agricultural Universities. ICAR regularly provides policy, professional and the partial financial support under the scheme 'Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India' to upgrade/modernize the infrastructure and facilities for teaching-learning, and to improve the quality of education.

Setting up of vegetable clusters near cities

†1397. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a gap between the demand and the supply of vegetables in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the assessment of Government regarding the said gap;
- (c) whether Government has formulated a plan to encourage setting up of clusters for growing vegetables near towns so as to enhance vegetable supply in the country; and
- (d) if so, the facts thereof and the details of proposed draft of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) and (b) The production of vegetables in the country has increased from 111.39 million tonnes in 2005-06 to 133.7 million tonnes in 2009-10. Accordingly, per capita availability of vegetables has increased from 279 gm per day to 317 gm per day over a period of 5 years. However, there are issues relating to enhancement of productivity, post harvest losses and improvement in quality of vegetables.

(c) and (d) Government has launched a new scheme on Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters during 2011-12 with an out lay of Rs.300 crore under the aegis of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. The Scheme envisages development of vegetable clusters for ensuring supply of good quality vegetables to one city or town in every State having a population of one million and above. In the case of States which do not have any city with one million populations such as in the North East and the State of Goa, the State Capital city or township having less than one million populations is covered.

The scheme covers all aspects relating to vegetable production, from production and supply of planting material to marketing upto the retail level along with support for conducting base line survey, formation of farmer groups, their linkage to aggregators/markets besides training and capacity building of vegetable growers in the identified clusters.

Dairy development

†1398. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN:

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the expenditure proposed to be incurred in the Eleventh Five Year Plan on dairy development activities in the country;
- (b) the percentage it amounts to in the total expenditure incurred on agricultural development activities;
- (c) the details of funds earmarked, State-wise;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the number of cattle stock is gradually decreasing; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.