

December, 2007 and that remained unpaid until 29.02.2008 were covered under the Scheme. The Scheme was applicable to all farmers including tribal farmers eligible under the Scheme and there was no discrimination against a section of farmers who are tribal. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for creation of a special package to address the debt burden of tribal farmers.

Modest growth in agriculture sector

1242. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to data released by Central Statistical Organisation, there is modest growth in agriculture and allied services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for low growth in the foodgrains during last three years; and
- (d) the steps being taken for the growth of agriculture sector during next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) As per the revised estimates of Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors reached the level of 6.6% for 2010-11 which is the highest achieved growth rate during the last six years.

(c) The production of foodgrains has increased from 234.47 million tones in 2008-09 to 241.56 million tones in 2010-11. The production of foodgrains in 2009-10 was at 218.11 million tones due to severe drought in most parts of the country during 2009-10 and drought/deficient rainfall in some States namely Bihar, Jharkhand, East U.P. and West Bengal in 2010-11.

(d) The Government of India has launched several schemes in consultation with states to increase growth of agriculture sector. Some of the major Schemes are the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed, National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) etc.