

2006 initially for 3 years, covering 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra to address problem of agrarian distress. An amount of Rs. 19910.70 crore has been released under this package till June 30, 2011. Period for implementation of non-credit components of the package was extended by 2 more years i.e. up to September 30, 2011.

Government also implemented Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 benefitting about 3.69 crore farmers in country involving Rs.65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.

Minimum Support Price of agricultural commodities has been increased substantially during last 5 years for benefit of farmers.

Interest subvention for timely repayment of crop loans up to Rs.3 lakh has been enhanced from 2011-12, resulting in further lowering of effective rate of interest for those farmers who repay their crop loan on time to 4% per annum.

Further, in order to revitalize agriculture sector and to improve conditions of farmers on sustainable basis, other measures taken by Government, inter-alia, include significant increase in public investment in agriculture sector through implementation of various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Micro-Irrigation, Watershed Management, Soil Health & Fertility management etc.

Additional measures initiated for enhancing production in agriculture sector during 2011-12, *inter-alia*, include schemes for bringing 60,000 hectare under oil palm plantation, initiative on vegetable clusters, promotion of production of nutri-cereals and launching of National Mission for Protein Supplements.

#### **Excess use of chemical fertilizers**

†1247. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agriculture land is becoming barren due to indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any policy to stop indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers; and

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) There is no scientific evidence of declining soil fertility and agricultural land becoming barren with judicious use of chemical fertilizers. However, indiscriminate and imbalanced use of fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years has resulted into widespread multi-nutrient deficiencies and deterioration of soil health in the country, particularly in the intensively cultivated areas of the country.

(c) and (d) The Government is promoting integrated nutrient management involving soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers and locally available organic manures.

#### Annual growth rate of foodgrains

†1248. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual growth rate of foodgrains production in the Eleventh Five Year Plan has remained 3.3 per cent on an average;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the names of the agriculture produces with less annual average growth rate than 3.3 per cent in the above said period; and

(d) the name of the agriculture produce with highest annual average growth rate than annual average growth rate of 3.3 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) During the first four years of Eleventh Five Year Plan period, *i.e.*, 2007-08 to 2010-11, average annual growth rate of foodgrains production has been 2.90%.

(c) and (d) As indicated in table below all the major agricultural crops except rice, wheat, Jowar, total foodgrains, rapeseed & mustard, sunflower, jute & mesta and sugarcane recorded average annual growth rate of more than 3.3%. among the major crops, the highest average annual growth rate of 20.36% has been recorded in the production of groundnut.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.