

(c) Final approval was accorded on 25.03.2011 to M/s International Mega Food Park Ltd. for setting up a Mega Food Park in Ferozpur, Punjab. 1st tranche of 1st instalment of Rs. 5.00 Crores out of total approved grant of Rs. 50.00 Crores has been released on 03.08.2011.

(d) As per guidelines of Mega Food Park, prescribed time limit for implementation of the project is 24 months from the date of release of 1st tranche of 1st instalment of grant-in-aid.

(e) As has been stated in (b) above, one Mega Food Park each will be considered for hitherto uncovered States of Haryana, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Goa and Pondicherry and as per policy of the Government for NE region, setting up of one Mega Food Park may be considered for NE region including Sikkim. Setting up of Mega Food Park in other States including Punjab having more potential may be considered thereafter, as indicated at (b) above.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO USTARRED QUESTIONS

### Debt-burden in tribal farmers

1241. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that majority of tribal farmers have not been able to benefit from the present design of the debt waiver scheme;

(b) whether Government will create a special package to address the debt burden of tribal farmers; and

(c) whether delay in addressing this issue makes the present debt waiver scheme discriminatory against a section of farmers who are tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The Government of India's Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS), 2008 was aimed at de-clogging the lines of credit that were clogged due to the debt burden on the farmers and to entitle these farmers for fresh credit. All agricultural loans disbursed by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Cooperative Banks (including Urban Cooperative Banks) and Local Area Banks (LABs) upto 31st March, 2007 overdue as on 31st

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.