

Implementation of Kuttanad package

2677. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest position of Kuttanad package;
- (b) the number of proposals cleared and total amount sanctioned;
- (c) the time-frame by which the package will be fully implemented; and
- (d) the steps taken by Union Government to ensure that the package is implemented fully in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) For development of Kuttanad Wetland Ecosystem as part of Rehabilitation Package for the farmers in suicide prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, the Government has granted 'in-principle approval' for providing financial support of Rs. 1840.75 crore for implementing various programmes/interventions suggested by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. As reported by the State Government of Kerala, 47 activities involving an amount of Rs. 1293 crore have been sanctioned/approved against which Rs. 90.24 crore has been released so far.

Sanctioned projects are at various stages of implementation and release of sanctioned amount is subject to the fulfilment of the conditions provided in the guidelines of the respective schemes under which the projects have been sanctioned. For speedy and timely implementation of the Kuttanad Package, Government has approved constitution of an implementation mechanism consisting of Kuttanad and Alappuzha Prosperity Council, Task Implementation and Management Committee and a Project Management Unit. Besides, Government has also constituted a Coordination Committee for sorting out the implementation issues in the package on a continuous basis with Government of Kerala.

Promotion of organic farming

2678. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any Government policy in place for promotion of organic farming, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is providing financial assistance to the farmers for promotion of organic farming;
- (c) if so, the details of financial assistance given during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (d) the details of targets fixed/achieved during the last five years in respect of all States;