

Productivity of corn

2662. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India consistently plants and harvests on one of the largest areas for corn cultivation in the world, but Indian corn yields have persistently lagged behind that of other corn-producing countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to improve corn yields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) As per data available with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for 2009 (latest available), India ranks 4th in area under corn (maize) cultivation after USA, China and Brazil. However, yield of corn in India lags behind that in other major corn producing countries in the world. Details of area under cultivation and yield of corn in India *vis-à-vis* other major corn producing countries in the world during 2009 are as under:—

Country	2009	
	Area (Million hectare)	Yield (kg./hectare)
United States of America	32.21	10339
China	31.20	5259
Brazil	13.79	3715
India	8.17	2414
Mexico	6.22	3237
Indonesia	4.16	4237
Nigeria	3.34	2200
United Republic of Tanzania	2.96	1123
Philippines	2.68	2621

Note: Figures for India as per official estimates of Ministry of Agriculture.

(c) In order to increase yield of corn, a platform for focused research on single cross hybrids has been initiated by ICAR. Research has also been planned and initiated for development of stress tolerant maize which can perform better under rainfed

conditions. The research on development of transgenic maize and improvement of maize for micro-nutrient content through conventional and molecular breeding has also been planned.

Implementation of Livestock Insurance Scheme

2663. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the target planned under Livestock Insurance Scheme in 100 districts in Eleventh Five Year Plan has not been achieved;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the action Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government of India introduced a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Livestock Insurance on pilot basis during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 in 100 selected districts of the country. For the year 2007-08, the scheme continued in the same format in the same 100 districts. The pilot scheme on 'Livestock Insurance' was approved on 20.11.2008 as a regular Scheme to be implemented in 100 newly selected districts. The Government has now extended the scheme in 200 newly selected districts from 10.12.2009 in addition to the earlier selected 100 districts.

The year-wise target and achievement during the Eleventh Five Year Plan are as below:—

	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
Item	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
										(upto November, 2011)
Animals to be insured (No)	4.21 (lakh)	4.85 (lakh)	3.28 (lakh)	3.97 (lakh)	6.00 (lakh)	6.80 (lakh)	8.00 (lakh)	8.16 (lakh)	8.92 (lakh)	2.19 (lakh)

(c) State-wise, details of animals insured during the XI Five Year Plan is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) Does not arise.