

(b) whether it is a fact that an innovative legislation originally designed to protect farmers from exploitative traders, the APMC Act implemented as a national model in the 70s' is now being blamed for rising vegetable prices;

(c) whether APMC laws make it mandatory for farmers to sell all produce through local committees;

(d) whether it is a fact that most APMCs harbour monopolistic practices; and

(e) if so, by when the APMC Act would be amended to provide more teeth to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) As 'Agriculture Marketing' is a State subject, States/Union Territories have their own Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act. However, in order to facilitate better price realization to the farmers through improved and alternative marketing channels, enhance investment in development of post-harvest marketing infrastructure and reduce the marketing cost and post-harvest losses, the Ministry of Agriculture prepared a model APMC Act and circulated it to all the States/Union Territories in 2003 for their consideration and adoption. It is, therefore, for State Governments to make amendments in their APMC Act for effecting market reforms.

(b) Several factors, such as, supply and demand of the produce, income and preference of consumers, international prices, status of marketing channels, etc., affect the prices of agriculture produce, including vegetables.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The APMCs are required to ensure smooth and orderly development of agriculture marketing by ensuring competition and fair play of trade practices and market forces. The Model APMC Act provides for more efficient and competitive marketing channels to the producers. The Ministry of Agriculture has been pursuing the States/UTs to make amendments in their APMC Acts on the lines of Model Act.

Sluggish agricultural growth

487. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is investing progressively less in agriculture whereas investment by the private sector is growing at a faster pace;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has not led to increase in productivity;

(c) whether it is a fact that growth of agriculture, targeted to grow at 4 per cent in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, has been sluggish; and

(d) if so, the steps Government is going to take to raise food supply to meet the rising demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) The level of investment (Gross Capital Formation), in the agriculture sector has been increasing over the years from Rs. 76096 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 133377 crore in 2009-10 which include public sector investment from Rs. 16187 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 23635 crore in 2009-10 and private sector investment from Rs. 59909 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 109742 crore in 2009-10 at 2004-05 prices.

(b) The productivity of the foodgrains has increased from 1715 kg./hectare in 2005-06 to 1798 kg./hectare in 2009-10 and further to 1921 kg./hectare in 2010-11.

(c) The average annual growth in the agriculture and allied sectors realized during the first four years of the Eleventh Plan Period *i.e.* 2007-08 to 2010-11 is 3.2% against the targeted growth rate of 4%. The average growth in GDP of agriculture and allied sectors suffered a setback due to severe drought in most parts of the country during 2009-10 and drought/deficient rainfall in some States namely Bihar, Jharkhand, East Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in 2010-11. However, as a result of the corrective actions taken by the Government to boost the growth rate, GDP for the 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.

(d) The Government of India has launched several schemes in consultation with States to increase investments in agriculture sector and raise food supply to meet the rising demands. 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.

**Schemes for development of animal husbandry,
dairy and fisheries sector**

488. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has formulated several projects/schemes for development of animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries sector in the State;

(b) if so, as per the submission of a detailed report by Andhra Pradesh, has the Government pleaded for sanction of Rs. 130/- crores for the year 2009-10 from the Centre for Animal Husbandry, dairy and Fisheries and Veterinary University;

(c) if so, whether Government would sanction the said amount for fast development of the said projects in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if not, detailed reasons therefor?