

lower amount of inputs. This gain, in turn, reduces cost of production in real terms contributing to resource saving and lowering of price for consumers. The technology led growth has decreased real cost of production by 1-2 per cent a year in major crops since mid 1970s. The highest gain is in wheat that experienced 2.3 % decline in cost of production. Similar decline was found in the case of barley, jowar, bajra and rapeseed mustard. Rice, mung, groundnut and gram show annual decline of around one percent. Research has been a major cause of growth in total factor productivity of agriculture. A study in 2011 covering the recent two decades indicates 42 to 46 per cent internal rate of return to public investment in agricultural research and education. Return per Rupee invested in agricultural R&D was found to be ₹ 13.45 during 1970-1993. These estimates prove high pay off from public sector R&D investments.

Expanding Mid-Day-Meal Scheme

†*420. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the type of various schools in which Mid-Day-Meal Scheme is being implemented in the country, at present;
- (b) whether the Working Group on Primary Education and Literacy for Twelfth Five Year Plan has recommended to expand Mid-Day-Meal Scheme in the unaided private schools in Scheduled Tribe areas;
- (c) if so, details and the present status thereof;
- (d) whether suggestions have been received from different sections regarding conditional cash transfer under Mid-Day-Meal Scheme for the benefit of children from Economically Weaker Sections of society along with BPL families; and
- (e) if so, details thereof and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The Mid Day Meal (MDM) Scheme covers children studying in class I-VIII in all Government, Government aided, Local Body and National Child Labour Project Schools, Education Guarantee Scheme/Alternative and Innovative Education centres and Madarsas/Maqtabs supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

(b) and (c) The Working Group on Elementary Education for 12th Plan has recommended inclusion of children in private unaided schools in 109 Scheduled Tribe

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ST) and 61 Scheduled Caste (SC) concentration districts under MDM Scheme in a phased manner.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal for Conditional Cash Transfers under MDM Scheme. The Government intends to continue to serve hot cooked meal under the Scheme as per the directions of the Supreme Court.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Implementation of Agricultural Insurance Schemes

3101. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of crops and number of farmers covered under Agricultural Insurance Schemes in the country, Statewise and scheme-wise during 2011-12;

(b) whether targeted benefits of Agricultural Insurance Schemes are reaching to farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Agricultural Insurance Schemes are mandatory for farmers;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether Government has received complaints against these Insurance Schemes;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) whether Government would review these Insurance Schemes in view of large scale exploitation of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) Details of crops being covered under the existing crop insurance schemes are given in Statement-I (*See* below). State-wise and scheme-wise details of farmers covered during 2011-12 are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(b) to (d) With aim to protect the yield losses in crops of the farmers due to non-preventable risks including natural calamities and adverse weather conditions, Crop Insurance Schemes have been launched by Government of India to suit the needs of farming community. For this purpose, cumulatively about Rs. 23,774.47 crore have been provided towards compensation of crop losses of 5.86 crore farmers out of 21.31 crore farmers insured so far.