

Minister's Council on Climate Change for the XII Plan. A scheme 'National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)' with an outlay of Rs. 350 crores for the period 2010-12 has been implemented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research which involves strategic research, technology demonstration and capacity building components. In Tamil Nadu, 4 districts such as Villupuram, Namakkal, Nagapattinam and Ramanathapuram have been covered under the NICRA program. In the XII Plan, the scope of the scheme is being expanded to cover more districts and farming communities.

Assistance to Bihar under National Dairy Plan-I

2483. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has given any assistance to Bihar under their National Dairy Plan phase-I;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. National Dairy Plan-Phase-I (NDP-I) is being implemented from 16th March, 2012 by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) through End Implementing Agencies.

(c) No project proposal seeking funding assistance has been received under NDP-I from any of the End Implementing Agencies in Bihar by NDDB till 23.04.2012, hence no assistance has been provided.

Exploitation of cotton and onion growing farmers

2484. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that a majority of cotton and onion growing farmers in Maharashtra are debt-ridden and an exploited lot;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take to improve the condition of these farmers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) As per National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) report No. 498 on the "Indebtedness of Farmer Households" (as part of Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers - 59th Round) released by NSSO in the year 2005, the number of indebted farmers households in the State of Maharashtra was 36.1 lakh. Separate data regarding crop wise indebtedness of farmers are not available.