

Opening of new Central Universities in Bihar

†*111. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken a decision to open two new Central Universities in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether in view of the population of Bihar, Government is considering to set up new universities at Vaishali and Bhagalpur in Bihar and also accord status of Central University to Patna University by upgrading it; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Under the Central Universities Act, 2009, one Central University was established in Bihar in 2009, which is functioning from temporary premises in Patna. It is now proposed to establish a second Central University in Bihar. The existing Central University will have jurisdiction over territory south of the River Ganges with head quarter at Gaya while the proposed new Central University will have jurisdiction over territory north of the River Ganges having head quarter at Motihari.

- (c) No such proposal is under consideration of Government.
- (d) The Twelfth Plan has not been finalized.

Diesel subsidy to farmers

*112. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to provide diesel subsidy to farmers in view of the drought like situation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government has identified certain States for the said purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to introduce Diesel Subsidy Scheme to offset the cost of diesel used for pumping water for providing supplementary and protective irrigation to standing crops in the drought and deficit rainfall affected areas. The scheme will be operational throughout the country.

Under this scheme, 50% of the cost of diesel for supplementary and protective irrigation will be provided as financial assistance to farmers, limited to 2 ha. per farmer,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

which will be equally shared by Government of India (GoI) and respective State Government/Union Territory. GoI's contribution will be capped at Rs. 750 per ha. The scheme would operate till 30th September, 2012 in the following areas:—

- (i) Districts where rainfall deficit was more than 50% as on 15th July, 2012, as per India Meteorological Department (IMD) data; or
- (ii) Talukas and districts declared as drought affected areas by the respective State Governments; or
- (iii) Areas with prolonged dry spell with rainfall deficit of 60% or more, for any continuous 15 days period, beginning from 15th July, 2012.

Drought in Jharkhand

†*113. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to drought in a few States, particularly in Jharkhand, there is a famine like situation; and

(b) if so, the effective steps Government is taking to deal with this situation and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per report of India Meteorological Department (IMD), as on 12th August, 2012, overall rainfall in the country was 16% below Long Period Average (LPA). Details indicating the Met Sub-Division-wise rainfall status is given in Statement. [Refer to Statement-I Appended to the Answer to SQ. 106, Part (a) to (d)]. Jharkhand has so far received 563.7 mm of rainfall which is about 16% less than the average rainfall of 667.9 mm and comes under the normal category.

(b) Against an average area of 105.70 million hectare under kharif cultivation, 85.4 million hectare is normally sown by 8th August. This year 80.2 million hectare has been covered under various crops by this time. However, area coverage under various crops in Jharkhand is reported to be 1.27 million ha as on 8th August, 2012 which is 0.22 million ha more than normal area of 1.05 million ha for the corresponding period.

Ministry of Agriculture is closely monitoring monsoon and crop sowing situation in consultation with IMD and State Governments. Contingency plans involving, *inter-alia*, changes in cropping pattern in forms of appropriate drought tolerant crops/varieties and short duration crops, etc. have been prepared for 343 districts for location specific interventions. Decisions have been taken for introduction of diesel subsidy scheme, enhancement of seed subsidy, up-scaling the central sector scheme on feed and fodder, waiver of import duty on oil cakes, release of interim assistance under calamity component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), release of funds under NRDWP and Integrated Watershed Management Programme etc. Government will

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