

Bad condition of sugarcane crop

1407. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that sugarcane crop in some States is drying due to failure of rains and other reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government is contemplating to incentivise the sugarcane farmers and come up with confidence building measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Reports on crop coverage indicates that, as on 16th August, area under sugarcane has increased from 46.71 lakh hectare (normal area during corresponding period) to 52.88 lakh hectare.

(c) Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme known as Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems Areas (SUBACS) for development of sugarcane in various sugarcane growing States of the country under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA). Under the Scheme, assistance is provided on field demonstrations, farmers' trainings, seed multiplication, farm implements, integrated nutrients management, integrated pest management, micronutrients and drip irrigation system.

Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), State Governments have been given flexibility to choose their priorities for formulation of projects including sugarcane development. Government is also providing loan at concessional rates of interest to sugar mills for development of sugarcane in their respective areas under Sugar Development Fund (SDF) statutorily maintained and managed by Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India.

Demand and supply of Bt. Cotton seeds

†1408. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether demand for Bt. cotton seeds has been growing continuously in the country over the years;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.