THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) India Meteorological Department (IMD) reports that as on 21st August 2012, the rainfall departure for the country as a whole is (-)15%. Out of the 36 Met Sub-Divisions in the country, 20 received normal rainfall (+19% to -19%), 13 received Deficient rainfall (-20% to -59%) and 3 received Scanty rainfall (-60% to -99%). States which have so far received deficient/scanty rainfall are Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland.

(c) With a view to sustain agricultural production and provide relief to farmers, decisions have been taken for implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme, enhancement of subsidy on seeds, channelizing funds available under various flagship schemes for drought relief activities, up-scaling 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 (IWMP), allocation of additional power from central pool to States *etc.*

Brazilian model of cotton cultivation

1430. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR) and Government of Maharashtra are undertaking a pilot project in eight districts of Vidarbha region to test Brazilian model of cotton cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Brazilian model of cotton cultivation will increase per-acre density of cotton which is double in brazil than it usually is in India;

(d) whether the model use to take straight variety of cotton or Bt. Cotton for this type of cultivation; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The pilot project is based on 3 years of experiments and field trials conducted at Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur under the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project (AICCIP). The CICR has identified three varieties *Gossypium hirsutum,* SURAJ, PKV 081 and NH615 and three Desi varieties, HD 123, AKA-5 and AKA-7 as suitable for high density planting. The pilot project was initiated this year in eight cotton-growing districts of Vidarbha covering 40 villages with five villages per district. The trials are being conducted on acre demonstration plots in 172 farmers fields with the *hirsutum* varieties, and on 80 farmers fields with the *Desi* cotton. The total area under the pilot project is 252 acres. The State Agricultural Department of Maharashtra and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of the respective districts are implementing the project with technical coordination from CICR, Nagpur.

(c) The per acre density is 10-20 times more at 80,000 to 100,000 plants per acre in the High Density Planting System (HDPS) model, as compared to 5,000 to 10,000 plants per acre with cotton hybrids.

(d) The High Density Planting System (HDPS) pilot project is only for straight varieties. The straight varieties can be re-used as farm-saved seeds and high seed rates are possible at least expense on seed.

(e) Early maturing compact *hirsutum* plant types with shorter sympodia have been identified such as Suraj, PKV 081, NH 615 and Desi varieties such as AKA 5, AKA 7 and HD 123 were identified by CICR. By planting at a spacing of 45 cm x 8-10 cm the plant population increases to a density of 80,000 to 100,000 plants/acre. With such systems, it is possible to obtain yields of above 18 q/ha in marginal soils, under rainfed conditions of Vidarbha.

Inequality in providing loans to farmers

†1431. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the report of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development mentions that there is inequality in providing agricultural loan to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.