

- (a) whether it is a fact that fishermen are not getting benefits of High Speed Diesel (HSD) oil;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reasons for not removing the BPL condition for fishermen; and
- (d) whether any time-frame is expected for removal of BPL condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Operations, a rebate on High Speed Diesel (HSD) oil restricted to 50% of the sales tax exempted by the States with a ceiling of Rs. 3.00 per litre is provided to coastal States/UTs for the use of small mechanized fishing vessels. This subsidy is restricted to (i) 500 litres of HSD for every active fishing month per fishing vessel of (ii) less than 20 metre size which were registered before 10th Plan and (iii) owned by fishermen belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category. However, under this component no funds have been released to the coastal States/UTs during the last three financial years, as the State/UT Governments have not submitted any admissible proposal in this regard since 2009-2010.

(c) and (d) Restoration of the diesel subsidy to all categories of mechanized fishing vessels irrespective of the economic status of the owner has not been supported by the Ministry of Finance.

Gaushalas and Panjrapoles

1426. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) how many Gaushalas and Panjrapoles are there all over the country;
- (b) whether Government helps in the form of subsidies or other incentives for promotions of Gaushalas and Panjrapoles; and
- (c) whether Government has intention to regulate functioning of Gaushalas and Panjrapole all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The data on number of Panjrapoles are not maintained in the Department. However, as per the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2012 number of Gaushalas is 3584 as on 31.3.2011.

(b) and (c) There is no scheme to provide subsidies for promotion of Gaushalas and Panjrapoles. Ministry of Environment and Forests through Animal Welfare Board of India provide assistance to various Non Government Organisations (N.G.Os.) and Animal Welfare Organisations to promote welfare of uncared animals. This Department also provides opportunity to N.G.Os. to take up breeding programme in Gaushalas if the same is recommended by the State Governments.

Establishment of Agriculture Information Centres

1427. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has established Agriculture Information Centres in the country, especially in the backward and tribal areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government has provided any assistance to the State Governments for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established 44 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) in 28 Agricultural Universities and 16 ICAR Institutes in the country, out of these, 4 ATICs are located in Uttar Pradesh at Varanasi, Bareilly, Faizabad and Kanpur. The ICAR has also created a network of 630 Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in the country to facilitate farmers' access to agricultural technology generated by National Agricultural Research System (NARS).

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing Kisan Call Centre (KCC) programme under which Agriculture related information is provided to the farmers in 22 regional languages through a country-wide common toll free number 1800-180-1551 covering all the States and Union Territory of India. The KCCs established at 13 locations in the country operate from 6.00 A.M. to 10.00 P.M. on all 365 days in a year. The Kisan Call Centre located in Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh caters to all the farmers of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.