

Invention of new gram variety

2201. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government and agricultural scientists encourage rural farmer innovators;

(b) if so, how many farmer innovators have been encouraged in the last two years;

(c) whether a farmer from Kolhapur district of Maharashtra has developed a new dual poded gram variety called 'Sushil Laxmi' that yields nearly 1.8 tonnes per acre under irrigated and 0.8 to 0.9 tonnes per acre under rain-fed condition; and

(d) if so, the steps Government is taking to propagate his invention to benefit farmers across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) To encourage rural farmer innovators, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Authority (PPVFRA) and the Indian Council of Agricultural (ICAR) have instituted awards for the farmers. "Plant Genome Community Award" of PPVFRA supports and rewards farmers in the tribal area, rural communities engaged in conservation, improvement and preservation of genetic resources. Varieties developed by farmers are also entitled for registration subject to fulfillment of criteria thereof. ICAR has also instituted Jagjivan Ram Innovative Farmer Award to recognize the contribution of innovative farmer for initiatives in development, adoption, modification and dissemination of improved technologies and practices for increased income and sustainability. Each year one national and eight zonal awards can be given. Also to recognize outstanding contribution of innovative farmer for diversified agriculture, N.G. Ranga Farmer Award is given annually by ICAR. In addition, ICAR/ Agricultural Scientists also encourage the farmers' innovations by testing and verifying the product/technologies developed by them.

(b) During the last two years, 7 farmers and 6 farming communities were given Plant Genome Community Award whereas 15 farmers at zonal level and 2 at National level were bestowed with Jagjivan Ram Innovative Farmer Award. Also, 2 farmers at National Level received N.G. Ranga Farmer Award for diversified Agriculture.

(c) and (d) Chickpea variety "Sushil Laxmi" developed by a farmer from Kolhapur district of Maharashtra was tested in All India Coordinated trials of chickpea in rabi 1995-96. The yield performance of variety "Sushil Laxmi" was found inferior to checks. On the basis of mean yield, this variety was not promoted further for second year testing.

During the year 2009-10, the variety "Sushil Laxmi" was tested again for DUS (Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability) testing at Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur and Mahatma Phule Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Rahuri as per the directives and guidelines of PPV&FRA. This variety was grown with other reference varieties of chickpea (BGD 75, BG 256, ICCV 37, Avrodhi, K 850, Vishal, Vaibhal and RSG 807). All the reference varieties performed well but plan population of "Sushil Laxmi" was not as per specification of DUS test because of mortality of plants due to wilt and other root diseases under field condition. It was susceptible to wilt and other root diseases and inferior in yield in comparison to other popular varieties of chickpea.

Dwindling population of goats and sheep

2202. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of States where goat and sheep population is recorded as dwindling during last two animal censuses;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to stop the export of goat and sheep meat;
- (c) whether Government has considered the revised export meat policy in reference to the said census results; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The last two animal censuses are 17th Livestock Census of 2003 and 18th Livestock Census of 2007. The names of the States where goat and sheep population has declined during the intercensal period *i.e.* 2003 to 2007 are as under:

| States | |
|--------|--|
| Goat | Goa, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Sikkim, West Bengal, Chandigarh and Daman and Diu |
| Sheep | Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. |

However, during the same period the total number of goats at all India level has increased from 124358 thousand to 140537 thousand and that of sheep from 61469 thousand to 71558 thousand.

(b) to (d) As, per the current Foreign Trade Policy, the export of meat of sheep and goat is free. There is no proposal under consideration to amend the Policy.

Funds for development of agriculture

2203. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: