

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The Directorate of Rice Research (DRR) located in Hyderabad is aiming to coordinate rice research in the country and conduct in-depth research on all aspects of irrigated rice aimed at enhancement of rice productivity and welfare of rice farmers.

(b) Yes, Sir. Rice productivity in the State of Assam is below the national average.

(c) Assam Agricultural University is already one of the centers of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Rice Improvement being coordinated by DRR, Hyderabad. Further, in order to strengthen Assam State's efforts for increasing rice productivity by developing production technologies specially suited for flood-prone rainfed lowlands of Assam, Regional Rainfed Lowland Rice Research Station (RRLRRS) was established at Gerua (Kamrup) under Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), Cuttack on September 15, 1997. Since its establishment, RRLRRS, Gerua is catering to the research needs and requirements of rice farmers of flood-prone lowlands by generating and popularizing appropriate technologies.

Use of chemicals in agro products

†2199. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of chemicals in agro products is very harmful for human life and environment;

(b) if so, whether Government has chalked out any comprehensive plan for preventing the use of chemicals in agro products and starting the use of organic substances as an alternative;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Pesticides are approved by the Registration Committee (RC) constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 after evaluation of their efficacy and safety. Human life and environment are not affected by pesticides if they are used as per label and leaflet claims.

Label/leaflets contain information on equipment to be used, dosage and directions for use and safety precautions for spraying of pesticides.

(b) to (d) In order to minimize the use of chemical pesticides for managing insect pests/diseases attack, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) is implementing a scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" since 1991-92 by adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme. Under the ambit of IPM programme the Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one UT.

Under IPM use of substances of organic origin like botanical and microbial Biopesticides are being advocated as alternatives to the chemical pesticides.

Cymbidium species of orchids in Uttarakhand

†2200. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the orchid of Cymbidium flowers species are being produced commercially in Darjeeling and Sikkim region of the country;

(b) whether climate of Uttarakhand is also suitable for growing orchids of Cymbidium species;

(c) if so, whether a team of experts would be sent to Uttarakhand to explore the possibility of production of Cymbidium species of orchids in that State;

(d) whether cooperation of horticulture department of the State Government is also likely to be taken; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (e) The orchid of Cymbidium flowers species are produced commercially in Darjeeling and Sikkim region of the country. The climate of some hilly districts of Uttarakhand is suitable for growing orchids of Cymbidium species. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) is under implementation in the State of Uttarakhand. Under this mission, assistance is provided for establishment of nurseries, tissue culture units, model floriculture centre, cultivation of cut, bulbous and loose flowers, protected cultivation of high value flowers, Human Resource Development, etc. for promotion of floriculture in the State of Uttarakhand.

Government of Uttarakhand is promoting floriculture in the State. The training of the officials and farmers on orchid cultivation is organized and imparted by the State Government. A batch of 15 officials and farmers from the State was sent to National Research Centre (NRC) for Orchids, Sikkim, for training on Orchid cultivation during July, 2012. Further, the Government of Uttarakhand has planned training for officials and farmers at NRC Sikkim slated for November/December, 2012.

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