

- (d) their share in total agricultural production; and
- (e) whether Government intends to revise its present policy of supporting better off farmers by extending more support to poor and small farmers in order to improve agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As per provisional results of the latest Agriculture Census 2010-11, marginal operational holdings with operated area less than 0.50 hectare (0.50 hectare = 1.24 acre) accounted for 46.71 per cent of total operational holdings and 9.46 per cent of the total operated area respectively, in the country.

(c) to (e) The Government provides financial incentives, grants, concessions to the farmers with special emphasis on holdings of small and marginal farmers through various Schemes such as National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Revised Macro Management of Agriculture, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds, etc. Besides, Government has taken several measures for improving share of small and marginal farmers in total agricultural credit flow. As a result, share of small and marginal farmers in total agricultural credit flow has increased from 36 per cent in the year 2010-11 to 45 per cent in the year 2011-12. The data on share of marginal operational holdings in agriculture production is not maintained in the Ministry.

#### **Co-operatization of agriculture sector**

177. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has attempted to co-operativise agricultural sector, especially small and middle peasants;
- (b) if so, to what extent it has succeeded;
- (c) whether it has been possible to safeguard them from fierce exploitation by vested interests by bringing them together under village co-operatives; and
- (d) whether it would be more practical and beneficial to them to distribute seeds and other inputs and ensure fair prices through these co-operatives rather than allowing foreign direct investment in retail trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Cooperative being a State subject, the States are expected to take necessary steps for promotion and development of the cooperatives. Each State have agriculture cooperative societies which provide agricultural inputs like, credit, seeds, pesticides, implements etc., to the farmers. Government of India has taken various measures for promoting and developing the Cooperative sector in the country. These include, *inter-alia* framing of national policy on cooperatives, enactment of Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002, assistance to cooperative education and training, assistance through NCDC for development of cooperatives, implementation of recommendations of the Prof. Vaidyanathan Committee, amendment to Constitution in respect of cooperatives, amendment to MSCS Act, 2002 and constitution of High Power Committee on Cooperative etc. Further, in view of the importance of the Cooperatives, the National Policy for Farmers provides for encouraging and supporting small farmers cooperatives to take up activities, such as processing, value addition and marketing of produces. Foreign Direct Investment in retail trade would complement and further strengthen these linkages to the farm sector.

#### **Production of chilli**

178. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra is one of the major Chilli producing States in the country with potential to further increase the production;

(b) if so, the details of Chilli production in the State during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the incentives Government has so far provided to Chilli growers of Maharashtra and what further incentives Government propose to provide them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Maharashtra produced 45.600 tonnes of Chilli during 2010-11, constituting about 3.5% of total chilli production in the country. Details of production of Chilli in Maharashtra during the last three years is given below:—

Year	Production (Tonnes)
1	2
2008-2009	45,400