

Failure of monsoon in Tamil Nadu

792. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Tamil Nadu has approached the Centre for financial assistance in view of the failure of monsoon in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government of Tamil Nadu has not sent any memorandum to Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India in 2012 seeking financial assistance for failure of monsoon.

Measures to tackle debt incurred by farmers

793. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government intends to take to tackle the increasing debt incurred by farmers, in view of the escalating input prices;

(b) whether Government intends to extend the reach of agricultural cooperatives and banks in rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Government announces each season minimum support prices for major agriculture commodities to ensure remunerative prices to the growers taking into consideration the relevant factors including the cost of production and changes in the input prices and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. Besides, to raise farm income and to improve agriculture production and productivity, Government has formulated various schemes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Agriculture Credit Initiatives, Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), Crop Insurance etc.

(b) and (c) A package for revival and strengthening of Short-Term Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS) in the country formulated on the basis of