

National Policy for Farmers (NPF) 2007, acknowledges the preponderance of small and marginal holdings in the country. NPF envisages farming activity becoming more viable and the economic condition of farmers improving on a sustainable basis. Major provisions of NPF comprise various asset reforms (land, water, livestock etc.) to empower farmers, development of support services (credit, insurance, extension, prices and marketing etc.) and creation of opportunities for non-farm employment for farm households. Accordingly, specific steps have been identified and incorporated in the plan of action for operationalization of NPF.

Loan at lower interest rate for dairy profession

†796.DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government provides agro loans at 3 per cent interest rate to farmers for agricultural purposes whereas there is no concession in the interest on loans for dairy profession even though it is complementary to agriculture;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide loans at lower interest rate to farmers especially in Madhya Pradesh for purchasing cattle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Government of India provides interest subvention at 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Co-operative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on their own funds used for short term crop loan upto Rs. 3.00 lakh per farmer provided the lending institutions make available short term credit at the ground level at 7% per annum to farmers. An additional interest subvention at 3% is available to the prompt paying, farmers. Thus, the prompt paying borrower/farmer would get short term crop loans at 4% per annum. However, this benefit of interest subvention is not available for Dairy even though it is complementary to agriculture.

(c) The Department of Animals Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries does not have any scheme to provide loans at lower interest rate to farmers for purchasing cattle. However, the Department is implementing "Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme" (DEDS) through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Development (NABARD) in which back ended capital subsidy (25% of the project cost for General Category and 33.33% for SC & ST beneficiaries) is provided through eligible financial institutions, subject to the norms of the scheme. One of the components of DEDS is establishment of small dairy unit of 2 to 10 crossbreed cows, indigenous descript milch cows and graded buffaloes. The scheme is available throughout the country including Madhya Pradesh.

Impact of deficient monsoon on foodgrains production

797. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the impact of deficient monsoon in 2012 on foodgrains production, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) to assess and expeditiously mitigate the impact of deficient rainfall/drought like situation in many parts of the country on farmers and in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As per First Advance Estimates 2012-13, Kharif foodgrain production is estimated at 117.18 million tones which is 12.76 million tones less compared to that of 2011-12. This is mainly due to delayed/deficient monsoon. State-wise details are given in Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) An empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) had been constituted to review the situation and take quick and timely decisions on policy issues as well as on other issues for effective management of drought and related matters. Important decisions of EGoM include implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme for providing protective irrigation in the rainfall deficient districts, enhancement of ceiling on seeds subsidy to partially recompense farmer for re-sowing and/or purchasing drought tolerant variety of seeds, interest subvention/restructuring of crop loans, additional wage employment upto 50 days per household, additional budget allocation of Rs. 100 crore under Accelerated Fodder Development Programme (AFDP), additional budget allocation of Rs. 50.00 crore under Central Sector Scheme on Fodder and Feed, fast tracking of fund releases under the major schemes of Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, waiver of import duty on oil cakes etc.