

An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) has visited the State to assess crop damage/loss due to drought. Report of the IMCT is awaited.

National mission on crop diversification

†4044. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has implemented national mission on crop diversification in the country;
- (b) if so, whether a fund of Rs. 500 crore has been set up under this mission;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action plan Government has decided to implement under the said mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) An amount of Rs. 500 crore has been allocated in the Budget for 2013-14 to start a programme of Crop Diversification in original Green Revolution States of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh. The programme would promote technological innovation and encourage farmers to choose crop alternatives to ensure long-term sustainability of agriculture in the North-West region of the country.

Food scarcity due to drought

4045. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any estimate of the food scarcity caused due to drought in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps Government proposes to overcome the food scarcity caused due to drought; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) There is no shortage or scarcity of foodgrains in the wake of drought in some parts of the country during 2012-13.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.