

- (b)
- The planting material produced through tissue culture are free from virus (though it does not prevent infection of virus during growth), hence tissue cultured plants are promoted in banana cultivation.
  - Tissue culture protocols are standardized in Cavendish group. Cultivar G-9 is most popular and lakhs of seedlings are supplied through different companies who obtained the technology from research carried out through research institute of Indian Council of Agricultural Research/State Agriculture Universities.
  - Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Horticulture Mission" and "Horticulture Mission for North-East and Himalayan State" for holistic development of horticulture including promotion of tissue culture banana plantations in India, under which subsidy is provided for taking up area expansion of Tissue Culture Banana. Support is also provided for setting up of tissue culture units for mass multiplication of tissue culture banana plants.

**Revival package for poultry industry**

4057. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Egg Coordination Committee has urged Government to extend a revival package of Rs. 57,000/- crore for poultry industry, as the poultry industry is facing the worst crisis due to an unprecedented rise in the price of poultry feed raw materials, soya meal and maize;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that maize prices increased from Rs. 1170/- per quintal to Rs. 1630/- per quintal and the price of soya meal increased from Rs. 1821/- per quintal a year ago to Rs. 3512/- per quintal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to extend revival package to this sector to overcome the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
(DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) The Government has received a petition

from National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC) citing severe crisis due to abnormal increase of prices of Maize and Soya, which are the main poultry feed ingredients. No amount is mentioned in the petition.

Various measures are sought in the representation of NECC, like moratorium for a period of one year on repayment of term loans availed by the poultry industry, rescheduling of outstanding term loans, grant of 6% interest subvention for 2-3 years, additional working capital loans, allocation of damaged wheat and rice by Food Corporation of India for exclusive use of poultry farmers, and import of soya meal by farmers at zero rate of customs duty.

(c) and (d) The prices of both soya and maize have fluctuated during the last year and as per the Price Monitoring Cell, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, wholesale Mandi rates as on last week of April (25th April, 2013) current prices for maize and soyabean seed show increase of around 5% and 21% respectively over last year. In August and September, 2012, to bring down the cost of feed ingredients, Government of India has brought the standard rates of import duty to nil upto 31st March, 2013 in case of de-oiled soya extract, groundnut oil cake/oil cake meal, sunflower oil cake/oil cake meal, canola oil cake/oil cake meal, mustard oil cake/oil cake meal. Import duty on maize bran has also been waived. Further, Government of India in July, 2011, has included State Departments and agencies having poultry feed manufacturing plants to be eligible for open bidding (tender/auction) for feed category stocks of the FCI, provided that they confirm to having feed stock manufacturing plants and/or poultry feed manufacturing plants.

#### **Post harvest losses of agricultural products**

4058. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Institute for Post Harvest Engineering Technology (CIPHET) has made an assessment of post harvest losses of agricultural products in 2010;

(b) if so, the outcome of the study; and

(c) the details of policies formulated and schemes implemented to reduce wastage and increase value addition in the food chain?