

(b) As per information provided by APEDA, the export of organic products was Rs. 1866.33 crores for the year 2011-12.

(c) Government is taking steps for promoting organic farming in the country including Tamil Nadu through various schemes *viz.* National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Under NHM financial assistance is provided for setting up of vermi-compost units @50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per beneficiary; funds are also provided @ 50% of the cost subject to maximum of Rs. 10,000 per hectare for a maximum area of 4 hectare per beneficiary or adoption of organic farming. Similar norms of assistance are applicable for assistance given under RKVY. Under National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), financial assistance is also provided as back ended subsidy through NABARD for setting up/strengthening of existing Bio-fertilizer and /or Bio-pesticide Production Units, assistance upto @ 25% of total financial outlay or Rs. 40.00 lakh, whichever is less; and for setting up of Fruit and Vegetables Wastes/Agro-Wastes Compost Production Units @ 33% of total financial outlay or Rs. 60.00 lakh, whichever is less.

#### **Decline in fertility of soil**

‡2044. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that quality of soil in Uttarakhand and other parts of the country is falling down day by day;

(b) if so, whether Government would establish Central Government laboratories in each district of these States including Uttarakhand to check the quality of soil;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reasons for which farmers in Uttarakhand are not able to grow ginger and soyabean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Indiscriminate and imbalanced use of agrochemical and chemical fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

result into micronutrient deficiencies and deterioration of soil health in the country including Uttarakhand. As per information received from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Soil fertility status of Uttarakhand showed 33 percent of districts low in available nitrogen and 75 per cent of districts low in phosphorus and potassium.

(b) and (c) Uttarakhand already has soil testing laboratories in all the 13 districts. As per available details there are 1087 soil testing laboratories in all States of the country.

(d) As per statical data of 2011-12, Ginger and soybean are already grown by farmers in suitable areas of Uttarakhand in 2087 ha. and 12279 ha. respectively.

#### **MSP for Soya**

2045. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to review the MSP for Soya;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is proposing schemes to encourage farmers to grow Soya;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of the production of Soya, State-wise; and
- (f) the details of the total amount of Soya imported/exported along with the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agricultural commodities including Soyabean on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. Government has already announced the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Soyabean for the 2012-13 season. The MSP of Soyabean has been increased for the Black variety from Rs.1650 per quintal in 2011-12 to Rs.2200 per quintal for 2012-13. Similarly for Yellow variety it has been increased from Rs.1690 per quintal in 2011-12 to Rs.2240 per quintal for 2012-13.