

- (iii) to undertake a study by the scientists of UHF, Solan, Himachal Pradesh and Department of Horticulture jointly, and
- (iv) to continue the prevalent method of protecting apple crops from hail by using anti hail nets.

As reported by Government of Himachal Pradesh, the orchardists in these areas have shown mixed reaction on the effectiveness of the anti hail guns.

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), under which assistance is provided for anti hail nets @ 50% of the cost of Rs. 20 per sq. m limited to 5000 sq.m per beneficiary to protect horticulture crops including apple from hails.

Oil palm farming

2795. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that interventions by the Technology Missions on Oil Seeds have failed to keep pace with demand of oil seeds production over the last 25 years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the concrete steps taken by Government to push oil palm farming in the country for enhancing edible oil production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Due to the interventions under Technology Mission on Oilseeds (TMOP), the production of oilseeds increased from 112.70 lakhs tonnes in 1986-87 to 324.80 lakhs tonnes in 2010-11. The productivity of oilseeds increased from 605 kg. per ha. to 1193 kg. per ha. during the same period. Consequently, the domestic production of edible oils also increased from 33.19 lakhs tonnes in 1986-87 to 97.82 lakhs tonnes in 2010-11. However, growth in production has not matched growth in consumption, which has increased from 5.0 Kgs. of edible oil per capita per year in 1986-87 to 13.6 Kgs. in 2010-11.

(c) In order to promote Oil Palm cultivation in the Country, Government of India is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) since 2004-05. In 2011-12, Government of

India launched Oil Palm Area Expansion (OPAE) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in 8 potential states. Under these Schemes, support is provided for new Oil Palm plantations, maintenance of existing plantations and for other components like, installation of drip irrigation systems, diesel pump sets, bore wells, construction of vermi-compost units, development of wastelands and transfer of technology through demonstrations, trainings and publicity etc.

Productivity of various crops in the country

2796. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether productivity of various crops like paddy, wheat, pulses, etc. in the country is far less in comparison to the neighbouring countries and the research activity in the field of agriculture has also slowed down to a great extent;

(b) if so, the details of productivity of different crops, country-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to strengthen research activity in the country so as to ensure that farmers are benefited to a large extent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Details of productivity of major crops in India *vis-a-vis* other neighbouring countries during 2011 are given in the Statement (*See* below). There is no slowdown of agricultural research activity in India. During the last five years (2008-2012), 645 high yielding crop varieties/hybrids that have fair degree of tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses have been released. In addition, 4.34 lakh quintal of breeder seeds of different crops were also produced and supplied to different seed producing agencies so that quality seeds of improved varieties/hybrids could reach to the farmers for cultivation.

(c) and (d) There are 99 institutes, 5 deemed universities and 79 All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) engaged in conducting basic and applied research to cater to needs of farmers across the country. 631 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country have been established for fine-tuning and transfer of the technologies developed at these institutes for the farmers. Further, Consortia Research Platform including climate resilient agriculture have been identified in Twelfth Plan to carry out research on the new frontier areas in enhancing yield and value addition for the overall benefit of farmers and the country.