

(e) Steps have been initiated to get these vacancies filled up on priority through the Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board (ASRB).

Production of off season crops

2805. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is promoting the use of Shade Nets, Plastic/poly houses and Green houses to produce off season/high value crops for local consumption and export:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has done the cost-benefit analysis of the above kind of Agri-Technology and the change of productivity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Government is promoting the use of plasticulture applications such as green houses, poly houses and shade net houses under the centrally sponsored schemes of National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) and through the schemes of National Horticulture Board (NHB) for cultivation of vegetables and flowers, and for nursery raising, including hardening of tissue culture plants.

(c) and (d) Studies conducted on the cost-benefit analysis of protected cultivation indicate that cultivation in green houses is profitable. Depending on the type of structure and crops, yield increase of 92 to 338% has been reported in comparison to open field cultivation.

Assistance to farmers for obtaining agricultural implements

2806. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers below poverty line in the country, particularly in Assam;

(b) whether Government proposes to provide special assistance to farmers for obtaining agricultural implements and machineries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) According to Planning Commission the number of persons below poverty line during 2009-10 in the country and in Assam were as under:

(No. in Lakhs)

	Rural	Urban	Total
All India	2782.1	764.7	3546.8
Assam	105.3	11.2	116.4

Occupation wise information on poverty is not maintained.

(b) and (c) The Government is providing financial assistance to the farmers including farmer below the poverty line from the 25% to 50% on the procurement of agricultural implements in the country including Assam under Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme (MMA).

Houses of fishermen under Fishermen Welfare Fund

2807. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of houses provided to fishermen, under Fishermen Welfare Fund being sponsored by the Central Government, State-wise;

(b) whether Government of Assam has submitted a proposal to Central Government for construction of houses for fishermen of the State under Fishermen Welfare Fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the sanction would be accorded and fund would be released according to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR.CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The details of the number of houses approved for fishermen, State-wise under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)- National Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen are given in Statement (*See below*).