

Pending proposal of Government of Odisha

*455. SHRI RABINARAYAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal submitted by Government of Odisha is pending before the Ministry for setting up 400 new vocational junior colleges and to strengthen the 231 existing Government vocational junior colleges; and

(b) if so, whether it would be approved during the current financial year in view of the acute shortfall of skilled manpower in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of “Vocationalisation of Higher Secondary Education” a proposal dated 08.04.2013 has been received from the Government of Odisha for introduction of vocational education in 30 new Adarsha Vidyalaya and strengthening of 231 existing Government Vocational Junior Colleges for the financial year 2013-2014. The meeting of the Project Approval Board for considering the annual work plans for 2013-14 of all States/UTs are scheduled in the first half of the current financial year.

Impact of climate change of crop yields

*456. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has conducted climate change impact assessment studies using the crop simulation models;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what reduction in crop yields has been projected?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has conducted climate change impact analysis on crop yields using crop simulation models (INFOCROP and HAD CM3) incorporating future projections for 2020, 2050 and 2080.

(c) Simulation studies projected reduction in yields of irrigated rice by about 4% in 2020, 7% in 2050 and by 10% in 2080 scenarios. On the other hand, rainfed rice yields

in India are likely to be reduced by nearly 6% in 2020 scenario, but in 2050 and 2080 scenarios, they are projected to decrease only marginally (<2.5%).

Similarly, climate change is projected to reduce timely sown irrigated wheat production by about 6% in 2020 from the existing values. In case of late sown wheat, the projected reduction levels are to the extent of 18, 23 and 25 percent in 2020, 2050 and 2080 respectively.

The yields of irrigated *kharif* maize are projected to reduce by about 18% in 2020 and 2050 scenarios and about 23% in 2080 due to climate change. Rainfed sorghum yields are projected to marginally (2.5%) decline in 2020 scenario and about 8% in 2050.

Latest fire-fighting equipments

*457. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether trains have been provided with latest fire-fighting equipments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise, and the funds spent for this purpose during the Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plan periods; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. All the passenger trains are being provided with Dry Chemical type portable Fire Extinguishers (gas cartridge Type) as per Bureau of Indian Standard specification.

(b) In passenger trains, two nos. portable fire extinguishers in each Air conditioned coaches, two nos. in each second class luggage cum guard van (SLR) coach, 4 nos in each pantry car and minimum two nos. in each Train locomotives are being provided by all zonal railways. These can be used in the event of fire incident by passengers, railway staff or any other personnel to extinguish the fire. Funds to the tune of around Rs.10.30 crore were spent on Eleventh and Twelfth Plan period on provision of fire extinguishers on trains.

(c) Does not arise.