

implementation of drip and sprinkler irrigation system for both horticulture and agriculture crops including sugarcane and rose in the country, including Maharashtra under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Micro Irrigation.

**Price rise in NCAER report**

†3421. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the quarterly agricultural outlook report prepared by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) of the department of Agriculture the prices of wheat, rice and onion will continue to remain increased upto March 2013;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the grounds of rise in inflation have also been mentioned in this report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) : (a) and (b) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) has sponsored a Project to National Council of Applied Economic Research (an independent body and not a part of DAC) on “Agriculture Outlook and Situation Analysis for Food Security” under National Food Security Mission. As per “The Quarterly Agricultural Outlook Report” December, 2012 submitted by NCAER under the project, wheat price is to stabilize at the current high level and expected to decline from April, 2013. The price increase scenario is seen to be a concern in the next few months in the case of wheat, pulses and onion also. In general, for the food sector as a whole, the prices would remain a concern until the rabi harvest 2012-13 produce begins to come into the market.

(c) and (d) As mentioned in the report, the factors affecting the price scenario in the report are the poor production of wheat and coarse cereals globally in 2012-13 because of weather related adverse conditions particularly in the USA, Ukraine and Russia; weak monsoon in India affecting kharif production and the increase in minimum support price of rice and wheat.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The projections for the next few months are based on models that incorporate seasonal and trend patterns for each food commodity and extend the estimated patterns for the short term future. The two alternative approaches were applied *i.e.* one approach that used the data on wholesale prices of food commodities in Delhi and second that used Wholesale Price Index at the All India basis. The projections of Delhi market prices of food commodities were provided until April 2013 and the Wholesale Price Index analysis was provided upto February 2013. The analysis indicates continued price pressure until April 2013.

**Food to poor**

3422. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India observes 'October 16' annually as World Food Day;
- (b) if so, whether on this day, an appraisal is made to know whether our poor and hunger countrymen are able to afford one square meal a day;
- (c) whether due to resource constraints, co-operations of philanthropic organizations like Indian Food Banking Network is being solicited and they are actively helped to evolve a modality to systemically acquire donated food and make it available to needy persons through community agencies; and
- (d) whether Government would stress upon FICCI, CII etc. to motivate their members to discharge their corporate social responsibility to support such a noble cause?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) World Food Day is celebrated by all the member countries of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Thematic discussions are organized on this day to give focus to specific food security related issues. In year 2012, the theme, dedicated for the purpose was "Agricultural Cooperatives-key to Feeding the World." Government is committed to ensuring food and nutritional security for all its citizens. Several welfare schemes and programmes are implemented throughout the country.