

Yearly wholesale Price Index			(Base Year 2004-05=100)					
Financial Year	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
Index	208.1	194.01	175.88	146.41	123.24	114.58	108.98	101.01
Annual Growth (%)	7.26	10.31	20.13	18.80	7.56	5.14	7.89	1.01

#### **Over sowing of cash crops in Maharashtra**

3426. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have opined that the present worst drought in Marathwada and other parts of Maharashtra is the result of over sowing of cash crops such as water guzzling sugarcane and fruits instead of traditional Jowar-Bajra over the past decade resulting in depletion of groundwater level;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to convince the farmers to go for traditional crops instead of water consuming cash crops to avoid droughts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) : (a) to (c) Compared to many crop particularly coarse cereals, crops like sugarcane consume relatively more water for realizing optimum yields. However, the current drought situation in Maharashtra is primarily on account of deficit rainfall in several parts of the State in Rabi-2011-12 and 2010-13; there is no empirical evidence to suggest that the drought situation in Maharashtra is due to cultivation of sugarcane and fruits.

Government of India is promoting cultivation of rainfed crops that require less water, like millets including jowar and bajra in various States including Maharashtra through Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion, a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana .

#### **Availability of quality seeds**

3427. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of source from where farmers can get quality seeds;

(b) whether there are reports of non-availability of quality seeds in several States of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for shortage of good quality seeds; and

(d) the role played by Krishi Vigyan Kendras in enlightening farmers for getting quality seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) : (a) Farmers can get quality seeds from the sales depots of National Seeds Corporation Ltd. State Farms Corporation of India Ltd., State Agricultural Universities, State Seeds Corporations in the public sector and from the authorized sale depots of private seed producing organisations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The following activities are carried out by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in enlightening the farmers in getting quality seeds :

- (i) Providing the farmers with sources and availability of quality seeds and importance of use of quality seeds.
- (ii) Providing technical knowhow on quality seed production.
- (iii) Capacity building of farmers in technical skills for quality seed production.
- (iv) Popularise new improved varieties of different crops by Front line Demonstration on farmers field.
- (vi) Encouraging the farmers participation in participatory seed production programmes.
- (vi) Production of quality seeds and planting materials on KVK farms for distribution to the farming community.

**Increase in agricultural wage rate**

3428. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP) has