

(c) Rs. 4.29 crore has been released to Chhattisgarh under Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) during the year 2013-14 as first instalment. State will become eligible for second instalment when it submits utilization certificates for funds made available under ISOPOM.

#### **Treating pisciculture at par with agriculture**

1563. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to treat pisciculture at par with agriculture; and

(b) if not, whether it would consider to grant such parity with a view to increase fish production in the country for domestic consumption and export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Some State Governments and Associations of Aquaculture sector have suggested that Pisciculture/aquaculture be treated at par with agriculture so that the subsidy, income tax benefits and other incentives available to agriculture could be extended to Pisciculture. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture had requested Ministry of Finance to consider these suggestions. Ministry of Finance has informed that the income from fisheries does not qualify as agricultural income under the Income Tax Act, 1961 and hence is subject to income tax. However, some incentives are available for cooperatives and enterprises for fisheries activities under section 80P, 80-IB (11A) and 35 AD of the Income Tax Act, 1961. In respect of provision of loans at low interest rates, it is stated that the provision of interest subvention is available for crop loans upto Rs. 3 lakhs to the agriculture farmers. Loans for the purpose of fisheries sector are not covered under this scheme at present.

#### **Grant-in-aid to Himachal Pradesh**

†1564. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grant-in-aid is being given to Himachal Pradesh for various Agriculture schemes by the Central Government;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi