

**Providing adequate and remunerative prices to farmers**

1579. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether people are losing interest in continuing with agriculture as prices of farm produces have become unremunerative;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that overheads are leading to a rise in the prices of farm produces and neither farmers nor consumers benefit out of it; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide adequate and remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) As per Census 2011 conducted by the Registrar General of India, the number of cultivators have come down from 127.3 million in 2001 to 118.7 million in 2011. However, the number of agricultural labourers increased from 106.8 million in 2001 to 144.3 million in 2011. Out of 481.7 million total workers in 2011, nearly 55 per cent of the workers are still engaged in agricultural activities.

According to the Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers 2003 conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), cultivation was the most important source of income of farmer households in rural India. A shift from low productive and low remunerative sector to high productive and more remunerative sector is a normal phenomenon in the development process.

(b) and (c) The increase in the cost of production of agricultural commodities is directly related to increase in the cost of various agriculture inputs like labour, seeds, fertilizers and pesticides etc. The effect of rising input cost of cultivation of major crops is balanced by way of assuring Minimum Support Prices that help the farmers receive adequate return.

Minimum Support Prices for most crops have increased significantly in recent years. In order to make agriculture a profitable venture, the Government of India has launched several schemes to increase investments in agriculture sector, for

accelerating agricultural growth and to raise farm incomes, such as, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed, National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Gramin Bhandaran Yojana etc. In addition, Government has substantially improved the availability of farm credit; implemented a rehabilitation package for areas with higher agrarian stress; implemented a massive programme of debt waiver and introduced better crop insurance schemes.

#### **Production of foodgrains**

†1580. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that International Institutes dealing with various food problems at international level has expressed possibility of decline in production of foodgrains and increase in their prices in next 10 years;

(b) if so, facts and response of Government in this regard;

(c) keeping in view the above mentioned possibility whether Government has made any estimate of changes that will come into agriculture production in the country; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) According to the '**OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2013-2022**' published jointly by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, global agriculture has become more market-driven. Expansion of agricultural production is likely to slow at least in the medium term with slower area and productivity growth. Supply should keep pace with demand at prices that are expected to remain relatively high. Measures to reduce food loss and waste will be important in meeting rising demand and for increasing productivity.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.