

provide insurance protection/compensation to farmers against crop losses due to adverse weather incidents.

**Growth rate of agriculture sector**

2175. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether contribution of agriculture to GDP has been declining over the years and is likely to decline further during next four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the rate of growth of crops production and productivity has also declined leading to poverty in various parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to improve the growth rate of agriculture sector in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) As per the First Revised Estimates released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on 31<sup>st</sup>, January, 2013, contribution of the agriculture sector to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country at 2004-05 prices declined from 14.6% in 2009-10 to 14.5% in 2010-11 and further to 14.1% in 2011-12. Similarly, this sector registered a growth rate of 0.8 % in 2009-10, 7.9% in 2010-11 and 3.6% in 2011-12 at 2004-05 prices. Further, as per the Provisional Estimates released by CSO on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2013, the contribution of agriculture to the GDP is likely to decline to 13.7% in 2012-13 and this sector is estimated to grow at 1.9% in 2012-13 at 2004-05 prices. The decline in growth rate and contribution of agriculture to GDP is on account of structural changes due to a shift from a traditional agrarian economy to a service dominated one. This phenomenon is generally expected in the normal development of an economy. Despite this, the production of foodgrains has increased from 230.8 million tons in 2007-08 to 255.4 million tons in 2012-13 (4<sup>th</sup> Advance Estimates). Similarly, productivity of foodgrains has increased from 1860 kg. per ha. in 2007-08 to 2125 kg. per ha. in 2012-13 (Fourth Advance Estimates).

(e) Further, Government has launched several schemes to increase the growth rate of agriculture and boost farm production in terms of its contribution to

the GDP such as 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), Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP), 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 massive programme of debt waiver; introduced better crop insurance schemes; increased Minimum Support Price (MSP), improved marketing infrastructure, etc.

**Proper marketing system for fruits and vegetables**

2176. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for not considering in consultation with State Governments, proper domestic marketing system for fruits and vegetables, keeping in view the huge price gap between farmers and consumers and within inter-State;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any study in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) by when Government is going to address this important matter in the interest of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) This Ministry has, in consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders, constantly endeavoured to improve the domestic marketing system for agriculture produce including fruits and vegetables with the aim to reduce the price gap between farmers and consumers and within inter-State. Some of the measures taken by this Ministry include formulation of the Model Act, 2003 for adoption by the States and of Model Rules, 2007 for guidance of the States. More recently, Committee of State Ministers Incharge of Agriculture Marketing was constituted in March, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Maharashtra and comprised of nine States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand. During the deliberations over the course of more than two years, the Committee also invited non-member States from across the country for consultation on marketing reforms. The Committee submitted its report to the Ministry on 4th July, 2013 which *inter-alia* recommends, the rationalization of market fee and commission charges on fruits and