

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Growth in agriculture sector**

466. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the growth rate fixed for agriculture sector for the financial year 2013-14;
- (b) the steps Government is taking to achieve the higher growth rate in agriculture sector;
- (c) the quantum of investment required to achieve the desired growth rate and how it is proposed to be obtained;
- (d) the details of special schemes launched for growth of agriculture in the country; and
- (e) the steps taken to achieve the target and increase employment in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (e) As per the draft Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) document, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Sector is projected to grow at 4.0 per cent. It has further emphasized increasing of public investment in agriculture to 4 per cent of agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Government has launched several schemes to achieve the higher growth rate of agriculture and increase employment opportunities in the sector 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.

Action plan to make milk production profitable

467. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rearing of livestock for milk production is not a profitable venture, specially for small and marginal farmers;

- (b) if so, whether Union Government has prepared any action plan so as to make milk production profitable;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether State Governments have been requested to implement the action plan and involve all milk producer associations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (c) The Government of India is implementing following schemes for enhancing milk production and providing infrastructure for procurement, processing and marketing of milk, which is expected to contribute to profitable dairying:—

1. National Dairy Plan-I (NDP-I)
2. National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB)
3. Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production (SIQ-CMP)
4. Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP)
5. Dairy Entrepreneurships Development Scheme (DEDS)
6. Livestock Health and Disease Control
7. Fodder and Feed Development Scheme

The beneficiaries of these schemes include small and marginal farmers among other beneficiaries.

(d) and (e) The State Milk Federations/Milk Unions are implementing the Scheme of this Department viz. NDP-I, IDDP, SIQ-CMP and some of the components of Fodder and Feed Development Scheme.

Conversion of arid and wet land into cultivable land

468. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the acreage of agriculture land put under cultivation for raising various crops;