

Bridge the Yield Gap Movement

482. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced “Bridge the Yield Gap Movement” scheme to close the gap between potential and actual yields in major food and fodder crops; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the results it has yielded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has been implementing various crop development schemes to bridge the yield gap in major food and fodder crops including National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion (INSIMP), Accelerated Fodder Development Programme (AFDP) through promoting improved crop production technologies.

The implementation of the Crop Development Schemes has increased the yield of foodgrains in the country. The overall yield of total foodgrains has increased from 1860 kg./ha. in 2007-08 to 2079 kg./ha. 2011-12 indicating 11.77% increase. The increase in the yield of rice, wheat and pulses was attained by 8.67%, 13.38% and 11.84% respectively from 2007-08 to 2011-12. The yield of coarse cereals has also increased ranging from 6.12% in maize to 26.75% in barley in the same period.

Identifying reasons for suicide by farmers

483. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exact reasons have been identified for the spate of farmers’ suicide in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether views of experts/NGOs in identifying the exact causes of farmers’ suicide have been taken note of; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Reasons of suicide by farmers, as reported by State Governments and mentioned in various studies, are manifold which, *inter-alia*, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons. Views of the Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, National Institute of Rural Development etc., regarding causes of farmers' suicide have been taken note of by Government. The Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness pointed out, *inter-alia*, that suicide is a complex and multi-faceted phenomenon, the risk factors can be either neurobiological or socio-economic and root cause is not indebtedness alone, which is just a symptom.

Agricultural land under organic farming

484. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any study to assess the extent of agricultural land under organic farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) As per information collected by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) area under certified organic farming is 5.5 million hectare in the year 2011-12, which includes both cultivable as well as wild harvest collection.

Losses to co-operative sector due to disbursement of loans to farmers

†485. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether co-operative credit structure is suffering losses due to disbursement of short-term loan on concessional rates to farmers as per the announcement of Government;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.