

During Twelfth Plan, research on Hybrid Rice is being strengthened by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through a special consortia research project on hybrid crops.

Supply of fake Bt. cotton seeds

963. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Government is aware that Bt. cotton farmers in Karnataka suffered huge loss due to fake seeds;
- (b) if so, whether Government has received any report in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has taken any steps to help the affected farmers and punish the culprit; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (e) The Karnataka Government has reported about supply of fake seeds of Bt. cotton varieties viz., Kanaka, Niki Plus and Jackpot in the districts of Belgaum, Haveri, Chitradurga, Davangere, Dharwad, Bellary and Gadag in 2013-14. The State Government constituted a field inspection team with the scientists of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad to investigate the matter. The Team reported that compared to other Bt. cotton varieties, these Bt. cotton varieties are found to be more susceptible to infestation of mind bug and midge fly. Joint Survey teams have been constituted by the State Government to assess the extent of crop damage for relief to the farmers.

Fishermen Welfare Fund

964. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of Fishermen Welfare Fund;

(b) the amount in the fund accrued since its creation in 1982; and

(c) the amount spent from the above fund during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) The National Welfare Fund for Fishermen has been amalgamated with Janta Personal Accident Policy in 1991-92 to formulate a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, "The National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen".

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Expenditure of agriculture

965. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's expenditure on agriculture and ancillary activities is decreasing although the former accounts for 67 per cent of the employment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the percentage of this decline is contributed to by loss of agricultural land to large scale industrial and other projects; and

(d) whether alternative options for employment are being provided to those who are deprived of jobs in the agriculture sector, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) : (a) and (b) Government's expenditure (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and Department of Agricultural Research and Education) on agriculture and ancillary activities has been steadily increasing from Rs. 13454.97 crore in 2009-10 to Rs. 20511.56 crore in 2010-11 and to Rs. 20562.71 crore in 2011-12. The expenditure has further increased to Rs. 21029.86 crore in 2012-13.

(c) and (d) The question does not arise. As per the Population Census data, number of persons engaged in the agriculture sector has increased from 234 million in 2001 to 263 million in 2011.