

**Condition of Farmers in Assam**

1748. SHRIMATI NAZINN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of farmers in Assam is not good, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government for the betterment of farmers in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) : (a) Disproportionate pressure of population on agriculture resulting **inter-alia** in low per capita income in farm sector, disparity between per capita income in farm sector and non-farm sector and other constraints such as preponderance of small and marginal holding, imperfect market conditions and lack of backward and forward linkages adversely affect income levels of farmers, including farmers in Assam. Assam is also periodically affected by flood which cause crop losses.

(b) Agriculture including agriculture research and education is a State subject. Therefore, State Governments are primarily responsible for development of agriculture in their respective areas. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of State through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support.

Government is promoting cultivation of rice in the boro season which affords assured and higher returns to the farmers. Government is also promoting submergence tolerant varieties of rice like Swarna sub 1 to prevent crop losses due to flash floods. Government is also extending assistance to the State for implementation of flood and erosion control measures like construction of embankments, plugging of breaches, prevention of erosion etc.

In addition to various developmental interventions such as National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Technology Mission on Horticulture for North Eastern States, Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India. etc. Government has taken several steps for improving financial condition of farmers including enhancement in Minimum Support Prices of

agricultural commodities, interest rate subvention for timely repayment of crop loans, debt waiver/debt relief, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector etc.

The amount released to State Government of Assam under various schemes of the Department for the year 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 is Rs. 297.61 crore, Rs. 484.65 crore and Rs. 338.68 crore (as on 31.12.2013 respectively).

**Utilization of Central Fund by Government of Bihar**

1749. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated and released to Government of Bihar for farmers' welfare during last three financial years; year-wise;

(b) whether the State Government spent the total amount released to it or there is unspent amount; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) : (a) to (c) A statement indicating amount allocated and released to the Government of Bihar alongwith unspent balance under various schemes of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture during the last three years is given in Statement.