

New technique to deal with inflation

†3254. SHRI LAL SINH VODODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that agricultural scientists are making efforts to develop a new technique to deal with inflation;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps in this regard so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Agricultural scientists are continuously making efforts to develop low-cost, improved crop production technologies with due consideration of farmers' resource availability to enhance agricultural productivity and profitability reducing cost of production and food inflation. Agricultural economists undertake analysis of food inflation from time to time to diagnose the cause and to suggest remedial measures.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed high yielding crop varieties resistant to pest and diseases, cost effective water harvesting techniques, *in situ* soil and water conservation measures, soil reclamation/amelioration measures, resource conservation technologies (zero tillage, bed planting, laser leveling, SRI), and technologies for mulching, vermin-composting, bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides production, integrated soil-water-nutrient management, integrated farming system and simple farm tools and implements in this direction. These technologies are being promoted through different schemes of the Government of India. Farmers' trainings and frontline demonstrations are organized to educate farmers on these technologies. Besides, agro-advisories and contingency plans are being provided. The Government also makes efforts to strengthen procurement, processing, marketing and public distribution system of agricultural produce to tame food inflation.

Production of fish

†3255. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of production of fish in the country during each of the last three years and the current financial year as on date, State-wise; and
- (b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the production of fish?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.