

Food Security Mission (NFSM) to boost pulses production in all districts of all States, except Kerala and Goa. Assistance is provided for interventions like demonstration on improved technologies, distribution of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management, machinery, efficient water application tools, cropping system based training, formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), etc. Several States are also supplementing assistance for pulses production from their overall Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) allocations.

(c) In 2012-13, the domestic pulses production was 18.34 million tonnes. The mis-match between demand and supply in the country was met by net import of 3.77 million tonnes of pulses.

(d) In order to promote use of high quality seeds, assistance under NFSM is provided only for varieties of pulses seeds less than 10 years old in crop demonstrations and seed distribution components.

Allocation of fund to Chhattisgarh under RKVY

†3261. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Chhattisgarh had written to Central Government to include Chhattisgarh State Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited for handling seed and fertilizers and foodgrain assistance scheme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY);

(b) whether eligibility of the State has been determined by adding funds for integrated water harvesting area programme under forest and wild life and the schemes mentioned in part (a); and

(c) whether allocation of ₹ 407.63 crore was made under RKVY for the State for year 2013-14 and out of this ₹ 233.82 crore has been disbursed during 2013-14 and whether remaining amount will be given to the State during the budget for 2014-15?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) As per operational guidelines of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), State Agriculture Department is the nodal Department for implementation of RKVY in the State. However, for administrative convenience and ease of implementation, State Governments are empowered to identify or create an exclusive agency for implementing the scheme. Further, State Level Sanctioning Committee under

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Chairmanship of Chief Secretary is authorized to sanction any project to any agency which fulfils conditions prescribed in operational guidelines of RKVY Scheme.

(b) As per operational guidelines of RKVY, expenditure which is directly related to the development of agriculture sector such as watershed development including State's share on Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP); Forestry and Wildlife, Agricultural Marketing, Food Storage and Warehousing etc. will be considered for determining eligibility of the State for accessing RKVY funds. However, expenditure on output subsidies such food subsidy, subsidy for procurement of milk, bonus on procurement of food grains and other crops etc. and expenditure on Civil Supplies and Public distribution system etc. will not be considered for ascertaining eligibility of the State for RKVY.

(c) On the basis of fund utilization and progress of implementation reported by the State, ₹ 233.82 crore was released to Government of Chhattisgarh during 2013-14 against an allocation of ₹ 407.63 crore. Allocation and release under the scheme are made on a year to year basis.

Keeping farmers informed of moisture in their agricultural land

3262. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to keep farmers updated about the content of moisture in their agricultural land to help them in timely watering their crops through use of mobile phones;

(b) if so, the details of this farmer-friendly action plan; and

(c) how far has the above system proved successful and implemented across the country to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Weather related information including agro-met advisories are being given to registered farmers through mobile phones.

(b) A nation-wide SMS Portal for farmers has been in operation for more than a year to provide SMS based advisories to farmers as per their preferences of crops/ agricultural practices for their location and selected language. In particular, rainfall related information, which has a bearing on moisture content in the soil, is also given. Before this, there were some isolated efforts of providing advisories by SMS. SMS Portal is an integrated platform which can be used by all organizations and departments of the