

***Statement-II***

*Component-wise achievement/progress made under different projects to check decline in soil fertility.*

Components	National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility			
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
*Setting up/ strengthening of Soil Testing Laboratories	15	1	17	0
Training for STL staff/extension staff/farmers	297	0	160	62
Field demonstrations	210	0	472	220
National Project on Organic Farming				
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Technical assistance to Bio-Fertilisers and Organic Fertilisers production units	300	190	-	-
Training programmes	80	119	185	3

\* now subsumed under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture

**Assistance to farmers**

1059. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's agriculture economy is a low growth and risky loss-making sector;

(b) if so, whether to overcome this, farmers need assistance in planning, cultivation, marketing of produces, managing finances etc.; and

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to address the problems of farmers to improve their economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) No, Sir. Agriculture sector registered an average

growth rate of 4.1% during Eleventh Plan period as compared to 2.5% and 2.4% during 9th & 10th Plan respectively. A target of 4% growth in Agriculture has been envisaged during Twelfth Plan Period.

(b) Notwithstanding the healthy growth rate registered by Agriculture sector, farmers do need assistance for better planning, cultivation and marketing of agricultural produces as well as for mobilizing finances for agricultural purposes.

(c) Agriculture being a State subject, State Governments take up several schemes and programmes in accordance with the agro-climatic conditions, felt needs of the State concerned for development of Agriculture and better income generation of farmers. In addition, Government of India also implements several schemes and provide financial assistance to States for the benefit of farmers for better planning, cultivation and marketing of their agricultural produce. Better extension support, timely agricultural and market information, best agricultural practices etc. are provided to farmers through State Governments/Agencies. States are being encouraged to modify their APMC Act and other statutory provisions so as to make those more conducive and beneficial to farmers. Government of India has also ensured availability of institutional loans/finances to farmers with provisions for interest subvention for timely payment.

#### **MSP for Paddy and other agriculture produces**

1060. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has increased the MSP of paddy and other agricultural produces for current kharif season recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the increase in MSP of paddy is not according to increase in cost of production, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reasons for not fulfilling the promise to provide MSP to farmers at the rate of at least 1.5 times of their cost of production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Kharif crops including paddy for 2013-14 and 2014-15 season is given in Statement (*See below*).