knowledge dissemination activities and addresses industry concerns on development matters.

(c) and (d) As per the current Trade Policy, export of tomato is free without any restriction while export of potato is permitted subject to Minimum Export Price of US $ 450/MT with effect from 26.06.2014. Presently, there is no proposal with the Government to export the surplus produce.

Subsidy on loan for purchasing cattle

†1065. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides loans to farmers for agriculture operation at 3 per cent interest rate;

(b) if so, the reasons for not making any provision for interest subsidy on the loan to purchase cattle despite the dairy business being complementary to the agriculture; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide interest subsidy on the loan to purchase cattle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government of India provides interest subvention at 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Co-operative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on their own funds used for short term crop loans upto Rs.3.00 lakh per farmer, provided the lending Institutions make available short term credit at the ground level at 7% per annum to farmers. This is not available for long term loans for Agriculture. An additional interest subvention at 3% is available to the "prompt paying farmers" by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Thus, the prompt paying borrowers/farmers get short term crop loans at 4% per annum. However, the benefit of interest subvention available to crop husbandry, is not available for investment activities in Animal Husbandry and Dairying including loans for purchase of cattle.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries does not have any scheme to provide interest subsidy on the loan to purchase cattle. However, the Department has been implementing "Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS)" through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) throughout the country in which back-ended capital subsidy (25% of the project cost for General Category and 33.33% for SC & ST beneficiaries) is provided through eligible financial institutions, subject to the norms of the Scheme. One of the components of DEDS is establishment of small dairy units of 2 to 10 crossbreed cows, indigenous milch cows and graded buffaloes.

Horticulture Mission in Rajasthan

1066. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts covered under the National Horticulture Mission across the country, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether a proposal has been received from Government of Rajasthan to cover nine districts under the National Horticulture Mission; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) A total of three hundred and eighty four (384) districts are covered in 19 States and 4 UTs under the National Horticulture Mission, while one hundred and thirty seven (137) districts of eight North Eastern and three Himalayan States are covered under the Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH). State-wise number of districts covered under NHM and HMNEH are as per details given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Rajasthan has requested for inclusion of nine more districts under NHM in 2013.

The National Horticulture Mission (NHM) envisages a cluster approach for development of horticultural crops, in accordance with their comparative advantage based on agro climatic conditions, potential for development and marketing opportunities. Inclusion of more districts under this programme would lead to diffusion of scarce resources. Establishment of infrastructure for post harvest management and marketing