

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country is bearing a loss of crores of rupees every year due to lack of proper information about use of pesticides by farmers;
- (b) if so, whether Government has conducted any survey, etc. in this regard;
- (c) whether Government is formulating any scheme to increase the yield and educate farmers about use of pesticides;
- (d) whether Government is also contemplating to take help from private companies in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Proper information among farmers about use of pesticides is necessary for efficacious elimination of pests and diseases. Every manufacturer of pesticides is mandated by law to display labels and leaflets containing all vital and relevant information pertaining to the pesticide on the container for the benefit of farmers. These label and leaflets are also printed in regional languages. No survey has been conducted on the quantum of loss on account of lack of information about pesticides.

(c) The Government is implementing “Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India” since 1991-92 through 31 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) in 28 States and one UT (Andaman and Nicobar), which conduct Farmers Field Schools to educate farmers on safe and judicious use of pesticides.

(d) and (e) Advisories have been sent to pesticides dealers through State Governments to stock and distribute/self approved pesticides, and to advise farmers to follow instructions on label and leaflets of pesticides. Private sector companies are also being exhorted to promote safe and effective use of pesticides through a ‘Grow Safe Food’ campaign.

Livestock development in backward rural areas

†1402. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to formulate a scheme for livestock development in the backward rural area of the country; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) Government of India, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries does not propose to formulate a specific scheme for livestock development exclusively for the backward rural areas of the country. However, the Department is implementing several schemes for livestock development viz. National Livestock Mission (NLM), National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBBDD), National Dairy Plan Phase I (NDP-I) across the country, including backward rural areas of the country.

Promotion of the use of bio-fertilizers

1403. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 17.3 million hectare land has been brought under use of bio-fertilizers in the country;

(b) whether Government has taken any initiative to promote the use of bio-fertilizers across the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) Yes Sir, 17.3 million hectare land has been brought under use of bio-fertilizer in the country, up till now.

(b) and (c) Government is promoting bio-fertilizers through various programmes under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Network Project on Organic Farming under ICAR.

Government is providing financial assistance @25% of total financial outlay, subject to a ceiling of ₹ 40 lakhs to individuals/private agencies for bio-fertilizer production units. 100% assistance is provided to State Govt. /Govt. agencies upto a maximum limit of ₹160 lakh per unit as Capital Investment Subsidy for setting up bio-fertilizer units of up to 200 Tons Per Annum (TPA) production capacity. As on March 2014, 50 bio-fertilizer production units have been established under the scheme with production capacity of 12563 Tons per Annum.