

of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a scheme namely Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities which are generally perishable in nature. The basic objective of MIS is to provide remunerative prices to the farmers in case of glut in production and fall in prices. Further, the MIS is implemented on the specific requests of the State Government/UT Administrations willing to share the loss with Central Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). Under MIS, funds are not allocated to the States. Instead, Central share of losses as per the guidelines of MIS is released to the State Governments/UTs, for which MIS has been approved based on specific proposals received from them.

New agricultural loan scheme for small and marginal farmers

1426. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to introduce some new agricultural loan schemes for small and marginal farmers, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of such existing schemes for small farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) Government has already taken several measures to increase institutional credit flow and bringing more and more farmers including small and marginal farmers within the institutional credit fold. These measures, *inter-alia*, include fixation of annual targets for improving agricultural credit flow; provision of crop loans upto ₹ 3.00 lakh @ 4% per annum to such farmers who repay their loan as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks; benefit of interest subvention scheme to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period upto six months for storing their produce in warehouses against negotiable warehouse receipts; collateral free loan upto ₹ 1.00 lakh; scheme for financing of Joint Liability Group (JLGs); simplification of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme etc.

Growth rate of agriculture sector

1427. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether contribution of agriculture in GDP has been declining over the years and is likely to decline further, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;