

In order to reduce dependence on imported pulses, Government of India is implementing pulses component of National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in 622 districts of 27 States including all north-eastern States and hill States in the country to enhance production and productivity of pulses.

Under the programme, various activities like demonstrations on improved production technologies, distribution of certified seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), resource conservation technologies/tools, efficient water application tools, cropping system based training etc. are being undertaken. Around 50 per cent of fund under NFSM is being allocated for pulses component.

Efforts are being made for area expansion of pulses through adoption of cropping system approach, utilization of rice fallows, paddy field bunds and inter-crop with oilseeds/commercial crops/coarse cereals etc.

Adaptive research projects are being undertaken by national and international research organizations to address various research issues and gaps of potential yield and yield realized at farmers' field.

(b) So far, no request for Geographical Indication (GI) status for Gulbarga toor dal has been received.

Setting up of fish brood banks

506. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has set up fish brood banks at various places in the country, if so, the details of the fish brood banks set up so far; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to create sustainable infrastructure in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh, to maintain pace of development in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir. National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has set up the following fish brood banks:

(i) National Freshwater Fish Brood Bank (NFFBB) at Bhubaneswar for production of quality and improved fish seed in substantial quantity using latest

technologies. Assisted in setting up of fresh water prawn (Scampi) brood bank at College of Fisheries, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.

- (ii) Assisted in setting up of brood bank for common carp (Anlur) at Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bengaluru.

(b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture under the Central Schemes such as (i) NFDB, (ii) Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations and (iii) Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture assists States in creation of need based infrastructure facilities including Andhra Pradesh for development of the fisheries sector. Besides, the Department through the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery (CICEF), Bengaluru also extend technical assistance to the coastal State Governments in planning and designing of fishing harbours and fish landing centres.

Judicious use of pesticides

507. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excessive use of pesticides by farmers is affecting their health and also making adverse impact on human resource development, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has undertaken any steps for judicious use of pesticides in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) The Government registers pesticides after evaluating the safety of the product with respect to human health. Pesticides used in accordance with instructions on labels and leaflets, are unlikely to cause any bodily harm.

(b) A 'Grow Safe Food' campaign has been initiated to carry the message of safe and judicious use of pesticides to farmers and other stakeholders. A simple message on the five essential principles of judicious pesticide use – application of pesticides on the right crop, against pests for which the pesticide has been approved, at the right time, in approved doses, and as per approved method of application – is sought to be conveyed through hoardings, banners etc. in regional languages in Gram Panchayats and rural areas. Advisories have been sent to pesticides dealers through State Governments to stock and distribute/sell approved pesticides, and to advise farmers to follow instructions on label and leaflets of pesticides.