

Ministry of Agriculture, out of total Geographical Area of 3287.3 lakh hectares in the country, 1467.5 lakh hectares is non-agricultural land/ area. Area under non-agricultural land consists of forests, area under non-agricultural uses, Barren and un-culturable land, permanent pastures and other grazing land.

(b) The reclamation of area under Non-Agricultural Land is generally not viable due to ecological and cost considerations. However, to improve fertility of soils in the country, the Government under the component of Soil Health Management of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) is promoting soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through setting up/strengthening of soil testing laboratories, establishment of bio-fertilizer and compost units, use of micronutrients, trainings and demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers etc. Recently, a National Mission on Soil Health Card has been launched to provide soil tested based fertilizer recommendation to all the farmers in the country. Further, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/ degraded areas.

Grant-in-aid to youth to set up dairies

†1395. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial Grant-in-aid is being provided through the Ministry to the youth in the country to set up dairies;

(b) if so, the details of the number of applications received from various States in this regard during Financial Years 2013-14 and 2014-15 along with the number of youths provided with financial grant-in-aid; and

(c) whether Government would make provision for more funds under head keeping in view the increasing population of youths in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries does not have any scheme to provide Grant-in-aid to the youth in the country to set up dairies.

However, this department is implementing "Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme" (DEDS) through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) across the country with an aim to generate self employment opportunities

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in the dairy sector and enhancement of milk production, procurement, preservation, transportation, processing and marketing of milk by providing back ended capital subsidy @ 25% of the project cost to the General Category (@33.33% of the project cost to SC/ST, category subject to norms of the scheme. The beneficiaries include Farmers, Individual Entrepreneurs and Groups of Unorganized and Organized Sector including Self-Help Groups on behalf of their members, Dairy Cooperative Societies, Milk Unions on behalf of their members including youth Milk federation, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) etc. The details of subsidy disbursed and beneficiaries/dairy units established, State-wise, during 2013-14 & 2014-15 under DEEDS is given in the Statement (Refer to Statement appended to the Answer to USQ 13911 (Part -C).

Soil testing labs in Karnataka

1396. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of soil testing labs in Karnataka especially in Kalaburagi, Bidar, Yadagiri, Raichur and Koppal districts; and
- (b) what is the mass testing programme and how it will be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) There are 29 Soil Testing labs in the Department of Agriculture in Karnataka. The number of Soil Testing labs in Kalaburagi – 1, Bidar – 1, Yadagiri – 1, Raichur – 1, and Koppal – 1.

(b) Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka has launched programme called Soil Health Mission. Implementation of Soil Health Mission (SHM) includes collection of soil samples, analysis of soil samples for macronutrients and micronutrients, distribution of soil health cards to all the farm holdings of Karnataka once in three years. It is also proposed to link the fertility status and crop specific nutrient recommendation of farmer to K-Kissan software in the form of farmer passbook which is to be issued to all the farmers of Karnataka. GIS based Digital soil fertility maps of state, district, taluks, hoblis and gram panchayats will also be prepared through Soil Health Mission.

Analytic conclusion of Agricultural situation Since Independence

†1397. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the policies and programmes for increasing the area of farming land, attain more productivity and making farming profitable in the country; and

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