

(c) whether ICAR is also constantly engaged in production and creation of stocks of drought resistant seeds, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has put in place contingency plans with a bottom-up approach by involving district level scientists of Agricultural Research Stations and KVKs of SAUs and ICAR Institutes to tackle the situation. The State Government functionaries were sensitized through a series of interface meetings of ICAR-DAC-State Departments to locally maintain sufficient stocks of seeds and critical inputs to save the standing crop and contingent cropping.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in association with State Agricultural Universities and concerned State Departments has developed district contingency plans including crop advisories to tackle any eventuality due to change in weather pattern affecting the agriculture sector across the country. So far, contingency plans for 600 districts of 25 States have been prepared and uploaded at [www.farmer.gov.in](http://www.farmer.gov.in), [www.crida.in](http://www.crida.in) and [www.agricoop.nic.in](http://www.agricoop.nic.in). The contingency plans are also being constantly updated to meet the emerging situations.

(c) ICAR including the network of All India Coordinated Research Projects on various crops is engaged in breeder seed production. In total 72598 quintals of breeder seeds of cereals, oilseeds, pulses, fodder and fibers including 112 drought tolerant varieties have been produced during 2013-14 for the production of certified seeds by different agencies during 2014-15 and its subsequent use in current year.

#### **Farming by conventional tools**

500. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether small and marginal farmers carry out agricultural operations by hand using simple and conventional tools and implements like wooden plough, sickle, etc. resulting in huge wastage of human labour and low yields per capita labour force;

(b) if so, steps taken to mechanise agricultural operations to prevent wastage of labour force and to make farming convenient and efficient;

(c) whether agricultural implements and machinery are crucial inputs for efficient and timely agricultural operations, facilitating multiple cropping and thereby increasing production; and

(d) if so, efforts made by Government to encourage farmers to adopt technically advanced agricultural equipments to economise agricultural production processes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (d) As per the study of ICAR (2012-13), out of the total percentage of power source, about 5% share of agricultural workers and draught animal power each is being used in agriculture. The agricultural tools being used by these power sources are less efficient resulting in wastage of power.

ICAR has developed number of technologies which can be operated by human and animal power which are efficient and reduce the drudgery.

The farm power availability and the average food grain yield have a direct co-relation. Mechanization of agriculture is an essential input in modern agriculture to enhance production and productivity, besides reducing human drudgery and cost of cultivation. Mechanization also helps in improving utilization efficiency of other inputs and also gives safety and comfort to the agricultural worker.

To encourage farmers to adopt technically advanced agricultural equipments for farming related works, Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization has been launched *w.e.f.* 2014-15 as component of the National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology. The Sub-Mission has following objectives:

- (i) Increasing the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions where availability of farm power is low;
- (ii) Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centers' to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small landholding and high cost of individual ownership;
- (iii) Creating hubs for hi-tech and high value farm equipments;
- (iv) Creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities;
- (v) Ensuring performance testing and certification at designated testing Centers located all over the country.

Farm Mechanization is also promoted through various other Schemes of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP).

#### **Contingency plan in view of poor monsoon forecast**

501. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of forecast of poor monsoon this year, Government has prepared any contingency plan to help farmers, particularly in the rice growing belt of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;