

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;

(b) if so, the details thereof in respect of acreage and seeds etc.; and

(c) whether Government would consider cloud seeding in a big way to induce precipitation during July-August?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) India Meteorological Department (IMD) in its 2nd State Long Range Forecast for 2015 South-West Monsoon released on 2nd June, 2015 has predicted the season rainfall for the country as a whole is likely to be $88 \pm 4\%$ of Long Period Average (LPA). Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), ICAR has developed agriculture contingency plans in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities in 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh and 9 districts of Telangana. The contingency plan provides broad advisory to farmers at the district level, prescribing alternate strategies in the event of climatic variability, by factoring in its crops/livestock/aquaculture practices/pattern, soil characteristics, infrastructural facilities etc. 318531 quintal and 329762 quintal of short and medium duration certified quality seed of paddy have been made available to the State of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana respectively for Kharif 2015.

(c) No, Sir.

Development of weavers' cooperatives through NCDC

502. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has specific schemes aimed at the development of weavers' cooperatives being implemented through the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of such cooperatives in Himachal Pradesh which have been benefited thereunder and funds allocated to Himachal Pradesh for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) No, Sir. However, under the Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation, Government is providing subsidy to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for assisting cooperatives, particularly co-operatives of weaker section such as those working in the sectors of handloom, sericulture, poultry, fishery, dairy etc.

(b) NCDC has so far sanctioned ₹ 1017.221 lakhs to 250 Handloom Weavers Cooperatives/Programmes in Himachal Pradesh, out of which an amount of ₹ 973.718 lakhs has so far been released, benefitting 245 Cooperatives/Programmes.