

- (i) Implementing and providing assistance to the fishermen through the Plan Schemes of the Department like Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations, Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture and National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen.
- (ii) National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) also provides financial assistance to fishermen for aquaculture, mariculture, domestic marketing, training etc.
- (iii) To promote overall growth and development in the fisheries sector in the country, the Government has announced a Blue Revolution.
- (iv) Government has exempted traditional non-motorised units from the uniform fishing ban imposed in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) beyond territorial waters during the current year.
- (v) Consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders.

**Benefits of Government schemes to tenant farmers**

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

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of tenant farmers, who obtain land on lease for cultivation, are not entitled for farm loan, Kisan Credit Cards and other relief packages such as crop insurance etc., if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(b) the corrective steps taken by Government to ensure that benefits of various Government Schemes are available to tenant farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) According to the Agriculture Census 2010-11, the number of tenant farmers in the country is estimated to be more than 28 lakhs. To provide loans to landless farmers such as tenant farmers, oral lessees, share croppers, etc., National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has developed a credit product *i.e.* Joint Liability Groups (JLGs), which is an informal group of farmers comprising of 4-10 individuals coming together for the purpose of availing bank loan against mutual guarantee. JLGs undertaking farming activities are extended the benefit of interest subvention on crop loan availed by them. As announced in the Union Budget for 2014-15, NABARD has advised all the States/Union Territories the target for financing five lakh Joint Liability Groups of Bhoomi Heen Kisan through banks. Under Kisan Credit Card Scheme guidelines, tenant farmers, oral lessees, share croppers, Self Help Groups

and Joint Liability Groups of farmers are eligible for Kisan Credit Card. It is also mandatory for loanee farmers to be covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme for the notified crops.

**Recommendations of CACP to increase MSP of wheat and paddy**

521. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has accepted the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) to increase the MSP for wheat and paddy;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made and accepted by Government; and

(c) the notified MSP and the estimated procurement of foodgrains by FCI in 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy (common) at ₹ 1410 per quintal and of paddy Grade A at ₹ 1450 per quintal for 2015-16 season as recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). MSPs of Rabi Crops including wheat for 2015-16 season have not been announced.

Department of Food and Public Distribution has set a target of procurement of 35.2 million tonnes of rice during 2014-15 Kharif marketing season and procurement of 30.0 million tonnes of wheat during 2015-16 Rabi marketing season.

**Making milk production profitable**

522. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rearing of livestock for milk production is not a profitable venture, especially for small and marginal farmers; and

(b) if so, whether Central Government has prepared any action plan so as to make milk production profitable by giving subsidy in feed, medical and life insurance for small and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the last All India Report on Input Survey of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation,