

Scheme for increasing oilseed production in Chhattisgarh

†89. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to increase the oilseed production has been formulated by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken by Government for increasing the oilseed production in Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India is implementing a centrally sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM), in 14 major oilseeds growing States including Chhattisgarh, with a view to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds in the country. Under the Scheme, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of Rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity, etc. to encourage farmers to grow oilseeds.

In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

An allocation of Rs. 110 lakhs has been made to Chhattisgarh State during 2004-05 to implement oilseeds production programmes.

Distress of farmers in Andhra Pradesh

90. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has apprised the Union Government about the distress of farmers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of assurances given for assistance in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) the action taken to clear the pending drought relief assistance early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) In order to mitigate the distressing situation of farmers due to the problem of indebtedness, the Government on 18th June, 2004 has announced a special package for providing credit related relief to the farmers, which *inter-alia* include (i) facilitation by NABARD for formation and financing of self-help groups of tenant farmers and oral lessees during 2004-05 (ii) review of scales of finance to meet the realistic credit needs of farmers especially capital intensive agricultural operations (iii) debt restructuring by commercial banks, RRBs and cooperatives in accordance with the new guidelines to be laid down by RBI/NABARD.

(c) On the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Central assistance of Rs. 50.58 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and Rs. 7.82 lakh MTs of foodgrains, free of cost, under Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) has so far been released for the drought of 2003-04. The above assistance is in addition to the Central share of Rs.171.96 crores released to the State Government during 2003-04 from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF).

Coconut Research Institute

91. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Kerala Government for establishing a Coconut Research Institute in Kerala by ICAR;

(b) if so, the details thereof and also the objectives of the Institute;

(c) whether the necessary clearance has been accorded for the project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE