

The Insecticides Act 1968 and the Rules framed thereunder mandate that pesticides are registered for use in agriculture in India only after a detailed evaluation of safety. Once registered, a pesticide is legally obligated to display and carry approved labels and leaflets containing critical information on safe use of pesticides for the benefit of farmers and extension functionaries etc. Application of pesticides in accordance with instructions on the label and leaflets is not likely to cause any harm to human health.

Improving living standard of fishermen

976. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of average per capita income of fishermen in various States, including Gujarat; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to improve the livelihood and living standards of fishermen in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries does not maintain data regarding per-capita income of fishermen in the country.

(b) For improvement of livelihood and living standards of fishermen, the Government has recently accorded approval to the restructured Central Sector Scheme " Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries " by merging the existing schemes of fisheries of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, with the following broad components:- National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and its activities, Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations, Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System of the fisheries sector and National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, with an overall objective to enhance fish production and productivity.

Agricultural growth rate

977. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural growth rate for the last five years;

(b) whether agricultural growth dips into negative this year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) As per estimates released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the growth rates in Gross Value Added (GVA) of agriculture and allied sector during the last five years i.e. 2010-11 to 2014-15 are given below:

Year	Growth rate in GVA of agriculture and allied sector (%)
at 2004-05 constant prices	
2010-11	8.6
2011-12	5.0
at 2011-12 constant prices	
2012-13	1.5
2013-14	4.2
2014-15	-0.2

(b) and (c) As per Advance Estimates released by CSO, the growth rate of Agriculture and Allied Sector for the current year *i.e.* 2015-16 is estimated at 1.1%.

Decrease in grain producing area

978. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of grain producing land in the country for the last ten years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the reasons for decrease in the grain producing area in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) State-wise details of area under foodgrains in the country during the last 10 years *i.e.* 2005-06 to 2014-15 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

Depending upon the weather and rainfall situations, availability of water in reservoirs, irrigation facilities and inter-crop shift of area, etc, the total area under foodgrains in the country has been fluctuating in the range of around 120 to 127 million hectares.