

programmes are being prioritized to develop new high yielding pest resistant varieties of food crops, pulses, fodder and commercial crop varieties. New research Institutes/programmes have basic, strategic and applied research related to crop improvement, crop production, crop protection, post-harvest operations, value addition, etc. ICAR's proposal for Twelfth Plan envisions a scenario of judiciously integrating conventional plant breeding, molecular biology, bioinformatics, genetic engineering, human resource and infrastructural development.

(e) ICAR seeks for enhanced allocations to the extent of 1% of agricultural GDP in forthcoming financial years so that agriculture research does not suffer due to paucity of funds.

#### **Single cropping in Jharkhand**

†2167. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total geographical area of Jharkhand is 79.70 lakh hectares, out of which agriculture is done on 23.62 lakh hectares only, which is 28 per cent of the total land;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 90 per cent area of the arable land in the State is under single cropping;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the agricultural output in the State is less as big portion of the land is not fertile; and

(d) if so, whether Government would run any special programme in order to make infertile, inferior and barren land arable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) As per Land Use Statistics for 2013-14 (latest available), the total geographical area of Jharkhand is 79.72 lakh hectares out of which net area used for cultivation (net area sown) during the year has been 14.06 lakh hectares which is 32.43 per cent of geographical area of the State.

(b) As per Land Use Statistics for 2013-14 (latest available), the cropping intensity in the State during 2013-14 has been 119.86%. It implies that about 84.85 per cent of the sown area is used for single cropping.

(c) Productivity of major agricultural crops in the State of Jharkhand being lower than all India average impacts total agricultural output of the State.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Government and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to convert infertile, inferior and barren land into arable/agricultural land.

However, to supplement State's efforts to convert infertile, inferior and barren land into arable/agricultural land by extending irrigation facilities the Government of India launched in July, 2015, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The above scheme aims at providing end-to end solutions in irrigation supply chain, viz. water sources, and distribution network and farm level applications. It adopts State level planning and projectised execution that allows States to draw up their own irrigation development plans based on District Irrigation Plans and State Irrigation Plans. Under the above Scheme, micro irrigation is also popularised to ensure 'Per drop-More crop'.

Besides, Ministry of Rural Development had also been implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/degraded areas. From 2015-16 onwards, the IWMP has been converted as the Watershed Component of the PMKSY.

#### **Vacant posts of agricultural scientists**

2168. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agriculture profession in the country is facing a dearth of agricultural scientists;

(b) whether more than 1000 posts of agricultural scientists, against sanctioned posts, are lying vacant in the country, including in institutions of ICAR;

(c) whether appointments are not being made even after constitutions of Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB); and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to deal with this problem and by when these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In this connection it is mentioned that the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) is a vast network with ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) Institutes, SAUs (State Agricultural Universities)/CAUs/KVKs spread across the country which meets the requirement of human resources engagement in the fields of research/extension/education in agriculture. The