

Tapping agricultural potential of Eastern India

1352. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vast agricultural potential of Eastern India including West Bengal remains untapped, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to promote agriculture in this region;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether it will have one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that vast agricultural potential of Eastern India including West Bengal remains untapped because of less use of improved varieties, low mechanization, small size of holdings, lack of marketing support etc.

(b) to (d) From 2010-11, Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is being implemented to address the constraints limiting productivity of rice based cropping systems in Eastern States including West Bengal. Various interventions namely, cluster demonstrations of rice and wheat, seed production and distribution, need-based inputs, cropping system-based training, asset-building includes farm, machinery and implements, irrigation devices and marketing support, etc. are being promoted under BGREI.

Decline in production of pulses

†1353. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of all types of pulses has declined;

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to tackle this decline;

(c) the quantum of decline registered in the production of all types of pulses during the past three years; and

(d) the way in which the shortage of pulses can be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) After achieving record production of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.