

Promoting the horticulture sector

1940. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to announce any special package/scheme to promote Horticulture sector in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) No proposal to announce any special package/scheme to promote Horticulture sector in the country is under consideration of this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) of the question.

Steps to tackle drought

1941. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of remedial steps proposed to be taken by Government in drought affected areas; and

(b) the assistance provided to all drought affected States to tackle the situation during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) The State Government is primarily responsible for taking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature and is approved on the basis of Memorandum received from State Government, in accordance with established procedure.

Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has prepared detailed crop Contingency Plans for 614 districts in the country. States have been advised for preparing/ updating/fine-tuning Contingency Plans for each district in consultation with CRIDA and the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and to prepare location specific remedial measures based on these contingency plans in the event of late arrival of Monsoon/long dry