

(c) if so, the details of the steps being taken in this regard along with the budgetary allocation and time-frame for completion thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) There are 81 Fertiliser Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs) in the country with annual analyzing capacity of 1.67 lakh samples. There is one fertiliser testing laboratory each in the States of Assam, Mizoram and Tripura. The annual analyzing capacity of laboratories in Assam and Tripura is of 500 samples each and in Mizoram is of 250 samples.

Under Soil Health Management (SHM) scheme of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, financial assistance @ ₹ 75 lakh per lab for setting up of new FQCLs and @ ₹ 30 lakh per lab for strengthening of FQCLs is provided to States based on their requirement. Under the scheme, an amount of ₹ 305.62 lakh for setting up of 6 new FQCLs and ₹ 469.44 lakh for strengthening of 45 FQCLs has been released to States during 2014-15 to 2016-17 (till November, 2016).

Action plan for welfare of small farmers

2730. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to ensure stability in the prices of agricultural produces for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) are not fixed; and

(b) the action plan formulated by Government for the welfare of small and marginal farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Government is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) are not fixed and are generally perishable in nature. The basic objective of MIS is to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.

(b) The strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare, particularly the small and marginal ones by making farming viable by way of reducing cost of cultivation, increasing production and productivity and providing remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. To meet this objective, Government is implementing various schemes/programmes *viz.*, Soil Health Card, promotion of Neem Coated Urea,

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, National Agriculture Market, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, National Food Security Mission, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, MSP Operations, Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme for Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers etc. Besides these Government also provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹3.00 lakh.

Bringing more area under drip and sprinkler irrigation

2731. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the extent of agricultural land under drip and sprinkler irrigation all over the country, including Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any special scheme to bring more agricultural land under drip and sprinkler irrigation in view of increasing water shortage and depletion of ground water; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) As per available reports so far about 8.5 lakh hectare area has been covered under drip and sprinkler irrigation all over the country including Tamil Nadu. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Government is focusing on improving water use efficiency by bringing more agricultural land under drip and sprinkler system. Under the Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, assistance is provided to farmers for installation of micro irrigation systems (Drip and Sprinkler). This scheme is being implemented in all States across the country. It has been targeted to cover about 8 lakh hectare under drip and Sprinkler system during the year 2017-18.

Besides, micro irrigation system is also being promoted under Command Area Development and Water Management Programme(CADWM) Scheme of Har Khet Ko Pani component of the scheme. It has been envisaged under the scheme to cover at least 10% of the total culturable command area under micro irrigation.