

- (ix) MSP is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs & Prices (CACP). The Commission collects and analyses data on cost of cultivation and recommends Minimum Support Price (MSP).
- (x) Further the Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented in order 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.

**Plans to increase production of spices**

2750. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plans to increase the production, quality and marketing of spices in the country;
- (b) the recent initiatives taken up in the sector with details thereof; and
- (c) whether there is any insurance scheme for the protection of workers and growers in the sector, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India is implementing various development programmes on Spices under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for enhancing production and productivity, quality and marketing of spices in the country. Under this Mission, financial assistance is provided for area expansion, rejuvenation/replanting of old and senile gardens, production and distribution of quality planting materials, Integrated Pest and Disease Management, Integrated Nutrient Management, organic farming, mechanization, Integrated Post-harvest Management, development of market yards, technology dissemination through frontline demonstration, Human Resource Development etc.

(c) The annual spice crops are covered under the insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY)). In addition to that, Restructured Weather Based

Crop Insurance Schemes are also under implementation in the country for horticulture crops including spices. Apart from this, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has recently approved a Revenue Insurance scheme for plantation crops for small cardamom and large cardamom to protect the farmers against losses arising from both fluctuations in yield as well as prices.

#### **Maintenance of bull mother farms**

2751. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are 172 bull mother farms in the country run by Central and State Governments;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that these are currently in dilapidated condition;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there is an absence of quality bulls and indigenous cow breeds, as well as lack of basic amenities like sheds of good condition and other equipments required for the maintenance of cattle and farms; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to strengthen the existing infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Looking towards the status of the farms and to meet demand of disease free high genetic merit bulls Government of India is undertaking strengthening and modernisation of bull mother farms under National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBBDD) and Rashtriya Gokul Mission (part of NPBBDD). In addition this Government has initiated massive progeny testing and pedigree selection programme under NDP-I to meet shortage of quality bulls at semen stations.

#### **Facilities provided to farmers**

† 2752. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a number of important decisions in the interest of farmers;
- (b) whether Government arranges to provide new variety of seeds to farmers on time, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the facilities provided to farmers during the last two years, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.