

**Fund for Biological Research Centre in Telangana**

3368. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of delegation of MPs and Minister from the State of Telangana has met the Minister recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the delegation has requested the Minister to help in releasing necessary funds to the Biological Research Centre being established in the State, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of the Ministry on such request, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) As per the diary of records in the office of the Union Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Minister, following Ministers and representatives of Telangana State recently met the Hon'ble Minister, individually on different dates. They are, Shri T. Harish Rao, Shri E. Rajendran and Shri Jayanth Ramchander.

(b) and (c) No details of discussion held during these meetings are available in the Ministry. No research proposal for funding either is under consideration as informed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Department of Science and Technology, and Department of Agriculture Research and Education; Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare.

**Distraction of young generation from farming**

†3369. DR. CHANDRAPAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by Government to make farming remunerative and lucrative;

(b) whether any assessment has been made regarding success of these efforts in timely manner;

(c) whether it is a fact that young generation has become totally distracted from cultivation; and

(d) if so, the details of efforts being made by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. The Government believes that farmers' welfare will improve if there is increase in net income from the farms. With this end in view, the approach is to reduce cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective, viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), the National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM), the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) etc.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). The Commission collects and analyses data on cost of activation and recommends MSP. The Government has also declared bonus on pulses for Kharif 2016 over and above the approved MSP. Even during last year, Government offered bonus over and above the MSP in cases of pulses.

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 MSP 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.

The Department from time to time monitors the scheme being implemented by it.

(c) and (d) As per the NSSO data for the 2011-12, the share of employment in agriculture is approximately 48.9%. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has been assigned by the National Skill Development Agency a target of 20 million skilled man force to be trained in the country by 2022. During 2009-10 to June, 2015, 87.97 lakh farmers/rural youths have so far been trained by the Ministry under various ongoing programmes on agriculture and allied sectors development.

Further, realizing the importance of rural youth in agricultural development especially from the point of view of food security of the country, ICAR has initiated a programme on "Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture". The objectives of ARYA Project are (i) To attract and empower the Youth in Rural Areas to take up

various Agriculture, allied and service sector enterprises for sustainable income and gainful employment in selected districts, (ii) to enable the Farm Youth to establish network groups to take up resource and capital intensive activities like processing, value addition and marketing and (iii) To demonstrate functional linkage with different institutions and stakeholders for convergence of opportunities available under various schemes/programme for sustainable development of youth.

Student READY (Rural Entrepreneurship and Awareness Development Yojana) is also another program in which agricultural students across the country are being networked to promote professional skills, entrepreneurship, knowledge and marketing through hands-on experience.

Skill development of rural youths will help in improving their confidence levels and encourage them to pursue farming as profession, generate additional employment opportunities to absorb under employed and unemployed rural youth in secondary agriculture and service related activities in rural areas.

#### **Use of modern and innovative technology**

3370. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether our large agrarian economy has been aggravated by the challenges posed by the climate change and urbanisation;

(b) whether putting barriers on modern and innovative technology in such a situation will be self-destructive as technology is a potent option in this situation; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry would reform the regulatory system, make it science-based and insulate it from being swayed by misleading propaganda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Climate change and urbanisation has its impact on agrarian economy.

(b) and (c) Among the modern innovative technologies that can address climate resilient agriculture are genetic engineering and gene editing for development of livestock and crops tolerant to drought, salinity, submergence, pest and disease resistance. Recently, the regulatory system under Rules 1989 of Environment Protection Act, 1986 dealing with these technologies have been reformed with adequate scientific support, international best practices and guidelines for safety assessment. To prevent misleading propaganda scientific assessment documents are made public for comments and also as information resource on scientific aspects.