

MoU with countries to improve productivities

3393. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has entered into an MoU with Armenia, Madagascar and Lithuania to improve the productivity and production and get new technologies for agriculture;

(b) if so, the expertise the above three countries have in agriculture sector; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has not been any MoU since 2011 with Israel which has pioneered in using limited water and getting more output *i.e.* more crop per drop, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with Armenia on 19.02.2016, Madagascar on 29.02.2016 and Lithuania on 19.07.2016 for cooperation in the fields of agriculture and allied sectors. Such cooperation facilitates sharing of experiences and expertise of each country for mutual benefit as well as creation of opportunities for trade in agricultural commodities. India's strategic interests are also served through such partnerships with other countries.

An MoU signed with Israel on 24.12.1993 for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors remains operational till date.

Problems faced by fishermen

3394. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation regarding problems being faced by fishermen, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has made any efforts to sort out their problems and any incentives proposed for the development of fishermen, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) has received several representations regarding problems faced by fishermen through their associations from some States. The issues raised are mainly on insurance coverage to fishermen, release of diesel subsidy, less fish catch, assistance for construction of houses and credit facility from banks with interest rate on par with agriculture sector etc.

(b) Since Fisheries is a State subject, the DADF in association with the respective State Governments is attempting to sort out the different problems faced by fishermen. In this regard, the DADF has formulated a scheme, namely, 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries' with the following components for implementation through the State Governments and Fishermen Societies/Federations:

- (a) National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and its activities,
- (b) Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture,
- (c) Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Operations,
- (d) Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System of Fisheries Sector,
- (e) Institutional Arrangement for Fisheries Sector,
- (f) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and other need-based Interventions,
- (g) National Scheme on Welfare of Fishermen

Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the fishermen, fish farmers, fishery cooperatives etc, through their State Governments for implementation of various production and welfare oriented fisheries activities for overall development of fisheries and fishermen. Under the component 'National Scheme on Welfare of Fishermen' the Department provides financial assistance to fishers for construction of houses, creation of other basic amenities such as drinking water facility and community halls, insurance coverage and assistance during the lean fishing season/fishing ban period.

Cold storage capacity in the country

3395. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of available *vis-à-vis* required cold storage capacity for food products in the country, State-wise, particularly Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the quantum of food products that got wasted due to non-availability of cold storage facilities in the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to enhance the cold storage capacity in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) A recent study on