

(e) whether there is any proposal to distribute uncultivable land to them to enable them to convert such land cultivable to earn their livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) According to the Population Census 2011, about 72.3 per cent of the total rural workers are cultivators and agricultural labourers.

(b) and (c) The practice of cultivation followed by farmers depend on various factors such as geographical conditions, crop grown, availability of improved seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, etc. The Government is implementing various programmes to encourage and support farmers in the country to adopt modern technologies and practices. Through National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology comprising activities such as Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, etc., latest agriculture technologies are disseminated to farmers of the country. Under schemes like National Food Security Mission and Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India trainings are imparted on crop management practices and also to create awareness about the new high yielding varieties/hybrids and new practices. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research also demonstrate technologies through established network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras to benefit farming community.

(d) and (e) The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducted the latest Land and Livestock Holdings Survey during 70th round (January–December, 2013) in rural areas of the country. This survey estimated that in rural India, about 7.41 per cent households possessed land “less than or equal to 0.002 hectares and it includes plots where area was not reported.”

As per Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, the subject of “Land and its Management” falls under the purview of State Governments. Therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to consider distribution of uncultivable land to rural families of landless. The role of the Central Government in the field of land reforms is of an advisory and coordinating nature.

Absence of marketing and storage facilities to farmers

1128. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of sound marketing facilities, farmers have to depend upon local traders and middlemen for disposal of their farm produce;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide sound marketing facilities to farmers;

(c) whether adequate storage facilities are also not available to farmers to store their farm produce and as such they are compelled to store their produces in open;

(d) the quantum of farm produces damaged during the last two years due to non-availability of storage facilities; and

(e) the measures taken to construct godowns at Panchayat level to check wastage of farm produces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The Government has taken several steps to improvise marketing facilities for farmers, which includes promotion of development of alternative marketing channels with private sector participation through advocacy of reforms. Further, to enhance transparency in the transactions, price discovery and farmers' reach to the number of markets and buyers of their choice even on sitting at one place, the Government has launched National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) on 14th April, 2016. Under the Scheme, farmers can sell their produce on-line and get remunerative prices commensurate to the quality of their produce.

(c) and (d) As on 31.10.2016 total storage capacity with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government Agencies was 782.99 lakh MT against peak requirement of around 600 lakh MT. hence, there is sufficient storage capacity available in the country to stock foodgrains. No wastage has been reported due to lack of storage facilities.

(e) Panchayats are one of the eligible beneficiaries for construction of godowns under storage component of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) Sub-scheme. The promoters are free to construct storage infrastructure projects at any place of their choice.

Blue Revolution

†1129. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is preparing any scheme namely Blue Revolution so as to enhance income from export of fish and other aquatic creatures from 33,441 crores to one lakh crore in the next five years; and

(b) whether this scheme would not adversely affect aquatic life and environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.