

State Extension programmes for Extension Reforms; National Food Security Mission; National Mission on Oilseed and Oil Palm; National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture; Sub-Mission for Seed and Planting Material; Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture stipulate that States and other Implementing Agencies are required to incur at least 30% expenditure on Women.

(b) Yes, Sir. In consonance with the Government Policy, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) encourages women cooperatives to avail financial assistance under its various schemes. A large number of women members are involved in cooperatives dealing with fruits and vegetables, Integrated Cooperative Development (ICD) Projects-sugarcane processing, consumer stores, handloom, power loom, spinning and sericulture activities etc. The cooperatives exclusively promoted by women are covered under Weaker Section Programme for the purpose of availing subsidy under Central Sector Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation.

To promote women's active participation in the governance in cooperatives, NCDC has also been organising training programmes for Women Directors of Cooperative Societies.

The details of assistance sanctioned and released in 2016-17 and 2015-16 exclusively to Women Cooperatives are as under:

2016-17

- ✓ Against sanctioned assistance of ₹ 552.50 crore, NCDC has released ₹ 555.320 crore for the projects sanctioned to women cooperatives.

2015-16

- ✓ Against sanctioned assistance of ₹ 2.04 crore, NCDC has released ₹ 3.55 crore to Integrated Cooperative Development (ICD) projects.

A National Workshop on "Strengthening Women Cooperatives" was conducted jointly by the NCDC and the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) in March 2017 which was attended by approximately 200 women cooperators representing most of the States/Union Territories in the country.

Drought in Puducherry

4034. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation from Government of Puducherry seeking sanction of drought assistance of ₹ 100 crore for the damage caused to the crops due to deficit monsoon in the Union Territory, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government of Puducherry has also requested the Government to send a team for assessing the damage caused to the crops in Karaikal and Puducherry regions, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stand of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) The Government of UT of Puducherry has submitted a Memorandum seeking Central assistance of ₹ 150.52 crores in the wake of drought in Karaikal and Puducherry districts. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) visited the affected areas for an assessment of the drought situation and requirement of financial assistance. The recommendations of IMCT have been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, who are administratively concerned with matters relating to UTs, for necessary action.

Micro-irrigation coverage

4035. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the different types and estimated potential of micro-irrigation (MI) in the country;

(b) the current coverage area of MI in the country and the States which perform the best; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to increase the MI coverage, equipment production and investments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Micro Irrigation (MI) broadly includes Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation systems. As per the report of National Task Force (2004) on Micro Irrigation, there is a potential of coverage of about 69.0 Million Hectares under Micro Irrigation in the country.

(b) As per available reports, so far about 5.9 million ha. has been covered in the country under Micro Irrigation through funding from Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The performance of the programme is comparatively better in the States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana etc.

(c) Micro irrigation has been getting enhanced allocation over last few years. This year also much higher budgetary provision has been made as compared to last year. Besides, State Governments are being frequently advised to promote Micro Irrigation. Capacity building and awareness programmes are being made to encourage farmers to adopt MI. To ensure larger adoption of MI system in the poorly penetrated States, farmers are supported with