

and convergence with other schemes like Project Sagarmala, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc.

There are four sub-components under the 'Blue Revolution' Scheme for welfare of fishermen (i) saving-cum-relief, (ii) housing for fishers, (iii) other basic amenities for fishers such as drinking water facility, construction of community hall etc., and (iv) Group Accident Insurance for active fishermen. During the past four years, *i.e.*, from 2012-13 to 2015-16, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) has provided a sum of ₹ 201.08 crore to various State Governments/Union Territories and other implementing agencies for (i) construction of 21,809 houses for fishers, (ii) coverage of an average 3.85 lakh fishers annually under saving-cum-relief, (iii) providing insurance coverage to an average of 46.15 lakh fishers annually, and (iv) to train a total of 17,790 fishers.

(c) The fisheries research institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) implement a number of research programmes to address the issues related to the possible impact of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture.

Facility of cold storages of moderate size at village level

*251. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there has been a bumper yield of potato, onion, carrot, tomatoes, etc., and farmers are forced to sell them in Mandis at throw away prices because of their perishable nature;

(b) whether Government proposes to come out with Minimum Support Price and procurement policy for perishable produce also to avoid miseries to farmers; and

(c) the steps Government has taken to create a network of cold storages of moderate size for storage of agro and horticulture produces to increase their shelf-life at village and town levels throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) There has been increased production of most of the vegetables, including potato, tomato, carrot etc. in the country in current year because of which the prices at few centres are low.

(b) To safeguard the interests of the farmers and preventing them from distress sale situation, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) operates Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural commodities including potato, carrot, onion, tomatoes etc. which are perishable in nature and are not covered under Price Support Scheme. MIS aims to protect the growers of these

commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production. MIS is implemented at the request of a State/UT Government which is ready to bear 50 per cent of the loss (25 per cent in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.

(c) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for development of Horticulture in the country. It includes assistance for creation of post-harvest infrastructure under Post Harvest Management (PHM) Scheme, including establishment of cold storages including those of moderate sizes, staging cold room, processing units, pack houses, pre-cooling units, controlled atmosphere storage, reefer vans, Integrated Cold Chain and setting up of ripening chambers. These cold storages can be set up at village and town level throughout the country. Further, the staging cold room available under the scheme are essentially meant to be established at the production sites of perishable horticulture crops.

Under Post-harvest component, credit-linked back-ended subsidy @ 35%-50% of the project cost is available. The component is demand/entrepreneur driven. Assistance for creation of cold storage/cold chain component is available to individuals, group of farmers/growers/consumers, partnership/proprietary firms, self-help groups, farmers producer organizations, companies, corporations, cooperatives, cooperative marketing federations, agricultural produce market committees and marketing boards, State Governments and local bodies like Panchayats.

Supply of fertilizers in backward, remote and hilly areas

*252. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the production and consumption of urea in the country at present;
- (b) the gap between demand and supply of urea along with the targets of production fixed for the next three years;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to eliminate the shortage and irregularities in supply of urea; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure regular supply of fertilizers in backward, remote and hilly areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The production and consumption of urea in the country for the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 (upto February, 2017) are given below:—