

comprehensive soil health management practices; optimizing utilization of water resources; etc.

- **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Scheme:** Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 653 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) district-wise in the country aiming at technology assessment and demonstration for its application and capacity development. The activities undertaken by the KVKs are On-farm testing to identify the location specificity of technology under various farming systems; Frontline demonstration to establish the production potential of improved agricultural technologies on the farmers fields; Capacity development of farmers and extension personnel; Functioning as a knowledge and resource centre of agricultural technologies; and Provide farm advisories using ICT and other media means on varied subjects of interest to farmers.

Milk production in Himalayan States

†200. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of milk being produced in Himalayan States at present;
- (b) whether it is sufficient for supply to the States;
- (c) if not, whether Government will provide funds and other facilities to increase the milk production in these Himalayan States; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The total milk production and per-capita availability of milk in States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim and Uttarakhand during 2015-16 is given below:

States	Milk Production (figures in 000 tonnes)	Per-capita availability of milk (figures in gram/day)
Arunachal Pradesh	50.13	105
Himachal Pradesh	1282.86	505
Jammu and Kashmir	2273.35	395
Sikkim	66.74	282
Uttarakhand	1655.81	434

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The Department Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is implementing the following schemes for dairy development under which financial assistance is provided to States/UTs including Himalayan States for creation and strengthening of infrastructure for enhancing milk production and procurement.

- (i) National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBBD).
- (ii) National Dairy Plan-I.
- (iii) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS).

(d) Does not arise.

Cashless transactions in agriculture sector business

201. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to introduce/promote cashless transaction in agriculture sector business in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any transaction fee waiver has been proposed on cashless transactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Subsequent to demonetization, workshops on cashless transactions have been carried out in 323 Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs). As per information received from the States, 85-90% of the trade value has been traded in cashless mode after demonetization. Under Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)/ Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) initiatives have been taken towards introduction/promotion of cashless transactions at the level of ICAR Headquarters, ICAR research institutes and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). All institutes/establishments under ICAR have already adopted cashless transactions in making payments. All payments including the wages of contract workers, scholarships/stipend to students/trainees, awards to students/scientists and farmers etc. are made only through electronic mode. For handling petty contingent expenditure also, the prepaid cards are provisioned to the concerned imprest holders in the various divisions/sections and no payment above ₹ 5000 made in cash. While receiving payments also, cashless transactions are promoted by making provisions for POS (swipe) machines and the adoption of other cashless means at points of sale. Till date, 143 POS machines have already been installed at 27 ICAR institutes, 20 KVKs and 18 State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). Under National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Scheme, electronic payment gateway is available for transactions by various stakeholders. DARE/ICAR has also not proposed any transaction fee waiver on cashless transactions.