

**Shortage of fodder**

1456. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is substantial shortage of feed and fodder in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether livestock is a major source of livelihood for a majority of the rural population in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details of measures taken to bridge the gap between the demand and availability of the fodder in the country, particularly during the lean periods and crisis situations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) As reported by the Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi, under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, there is an estimated deficit of 35.6% green fodder (supply of 526 MT against demand of 817 MT) and 11.0% of dry forage (supply of 453 MT against demand of 509 MT) in the country.

- (b) The main reasons of fodder shortages are as follows:—
  - (i) Fodder area being stagnated since last two decades and there is little or no scope to further increase area under fodder crops;
  - (ii) Diversion of crop residues for other purposes like fuel, packaging and paper industry;
  - (iii) Forages are generally least preferred crops among the farmers and generally face competition from the food and commercial crops meant for human population;
  - (iv) Poor fertility, degraded and marginal lands are usually allocated for forage production with minimum inputs in terms of fertilizers, water and human resource which results in poor fodder production;
  - (v) Non availability of good quality fodder seeds.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Livestock is a major source of livelihood for a majority of the rural population in the country. Government in conjunction with the State Government have already taken necessary measures to bridge the gap between the demand and availability of the fodder in various parts the country by providing financial assistance to the States and UTs under Centrally Sponsored National Livestock Mission of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) with a

Sub Mission on Feed and Fodder Development. The Mission is in operational since 2014-15 in all the States and Union Territories including the lean periods and crisis situations with a budgetary allocation of ₹ 310 crore during the current year 2017-18.

Additional Fodder Development Programme (AFDP) as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare is also being operational since 2014-15 in the Districts/Blocks in the event of declaration of drought by the State Governments in order to mitigate drought implications on livestock with a budgetary allocation of ₹ 20 crores during the current year 2017-18 to mitigate the adverse impacts of drought which is continuing at present.

Further, in addition to this, financial assistance is also provided under the normal programme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare for other fodder developmental activities planned by the States which is supported by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

#### **Functioning of KVKs**

1457. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have been established in the country since 1974;

(b) if so, the number of such Kendras established in 1974 and the total number of these Kendras in the country till June, 2017;

(c) the average amount spent annually for each KVK by Government; and

(d) the annual amount spent on an average basis for various activities by KVKs and the mechanism developed by Government for monitoring the functioning of these Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, only one Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) was established in 1974. Till June, 2017, a total of 676 KVKs have been established in the country.

(c) and (d) The average amount spent on each KVK depend on its stage of development and number of staff working at a KVK. During 2016-17 an amount of ₹ 830.90 crore was provided to KVKs which included ₹ 276.88 crore for its various activities and infrastructure.