

I also thank the Deputy Chairman, the Members on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen and the officers and staff of the Secretariat for the help and co-operation they have rendered.

Now, the National Song.

NATIONAL SONG

(The National Song, "*Vande Mataram*", was then played.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the House stands adjourned sine die.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up regulator for fixing prices of agricultural tools

†*271. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that industries engaged in agricultural sector are making huge profits every year while farmers are sinking into debt day-by-day;

(b) whether the reason behind accrual of huge profits to companies engaged in agricultural sector, such as tractor manufacturers, fertiliser manufacturers/suppliers, companies supplying insecticides and seeds, is the faulty policies of Government, which are harming the farmers and benefiting the industries engaged in agriculture; and

(c) whether Government would consider setting up a regulator for fixing prices of the said resources, so as to arrest the trend of earning huge profits on agricultural tools?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Agriculture is a State subject, however, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing various schemes/programmes for benefit of farmers. As per the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) Report on Key Indicators of Situation of Agricultural Households in India {NSS-70th Round (January, 2013–December, 2013)}, 51.9 per cent of the estimated 90.2 million agricultural households in the country were reported to be indebted to either formal or informal or both sources of credit. The average amount of outstanding loan per agricultural household was ₹ 47,000/- (approximately). The State-wise details are given in the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.