

(b) the steps taken by NHB to impart training to farmers about PCC technology; and

(c) whether any subsidy is granted by Government to install infrastructure in order to use PCC technology effectively, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The Protected Crop Cultivation is being looked after by the technical staff of the National Horticulture Board (NHB) with Horticulture /Agriculture background and having sufficient exposure, training, experience in the field. Further, technical standards of Protected Cultivation have been formulated in consultation with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), National Committee on Plastics Applications in Horticulture (NCPAH), who have professional engineers specialized in the field.

(b) NHB has been imparting training to farmers about PCC technology through specialized institutions such as Horticulture Training Centre, Pune and Centers of Excellence set-up under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme. Further, technical assistance and support are also provided to farmers by offices of NHB and State Horticulture Missions. In addition, exposure visits of farmers at established farms for on farm experience are also arranged by NHB.

(c) Yes, Sir. The same is available under MIDH scheme.

#### **Assistance to fishermen of Tamil Nadu**

2121. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to extend financial assistance to fishermen in Tamil Nadu to purchase high-end deep sea fishing vessels so that they can compete with Taiwan and Thailand which are using much advanced vessels for deep sea fishing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has introduced a new Sub-component namely "Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing" under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme

(CSS) on 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries'. The DADF has received a proposal on Subsidy assistance for Deep Sea Fishing to Traditional fishermen for procurement of New Tuna Long Liner cum Gill Netter from Government of Tamil Nadu. Government of India has sanctioned and released ₹200.00 crores to Government of Tamil Nadu during the financial Year 2017-18 for implementation of the sub-component on 'Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing' under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries'.

**Awareness campaign about new farming techniques**

2122. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to create awareness among the farmers of the country about the new farming techniques, developments, etc;
- (b) whether the said awareness meetings/seminars/camps are held frequently in each and every rural area of the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Madurai in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The main extension system for dissemination of farming techniques to farmers is operated by State Governments. However, the steps taken by the Union Government to create awareness among the farmers about new farming techniques, etc. are as follows:

- The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare is providing support to State Extension Programmes for extension reforms through setting up of Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) in 676 districts of 29 States and 3 Union Territories of the country. The ATMAs conduct various farmer oriented activities including farmers' training and demonstrations, exposure visits, farmers' fairs, mobilization of farmers' groups and organizing farm schools, etc. The State wise number of farmers participated in various activities of ATMA scheme during the current year is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).
- Besides, existing infrastructure of All India Radio and Doordarshan is also being utilised to create awareness on best agricultural practices. Also, Prasar Bharati owned DD Kisan is 24 hours' channel which telecast agriculture based programmes for the benefit of farming community.