

the multi state cooperative society and the scales of pay, allowances and other conditions of service of, including disciplinary action against, such employees falls within powers and functions of the Board of the Bank. The Chief Executive is required to fulfil the 'fit and proper' criteria formulated in consultation with RBI. The pay of Chief Executive is not required to be approved by the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

Coverage of Greater Yam Crop under PMFBY

1288. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE and FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government does not treat Greater Yam producers as farmers at all;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to provide Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) coverage to Greater Yam producing farmers of East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Coverage of crops and areas to be included under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) are notified by the State Governments.

In Andhra Pradesh, a minimum of 2000 hectare of cropped area in a mandal is required to form an Insurance Unit under PMFBY. The total area under Greater Yam in East Godavari District is only 373 hectare and hence this crop is not included under PMFBY.

Research on Dry Land Cropping system

1289. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any efforts for research on dry land cropping system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government to improve the yield potential of land under arid and semi-arid zones of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting basic and strategic research to develop technologies for conservation, management and sustainable utilization of the natural resources ensuring food, nutritional and environmental security for drylands and rainfed areas. ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur is addressing the issues of dryland cropping systems for arid regions of Rajasthan and Gujarat, while ICAR- Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad carrying out basic and strategic research in rainfed agriculture. ICAR has developed technologies on Integrated Watershed Management, Integrated Farming System, Rainfed/Dryland Agriculture/Climate Resilient Agriculture, Organic Farming and Agroforestry to develop dryland cropping systems.

(c) The steps taken now cover areas of research on amelioration of alkaline soils, rehabilitation of mine spoils, *in-situ*, *ex-situ*, water harvesting, water budgeting, deficit irrigation to increase water productivity, soil conservation, development of high temperature and water stress tolerant short duration varieties suitable for short growing season, integrated nutrient management, suitable cropping and farming systems for hot arid zone to improve yield potential of arid lands and induce resilience to dryland farming systems under arid zone.

The recent initiatives from ICAR also include the followings,

District Agriculture Contingency Plans (DACPs)

The ICAR has prepared 623 District Agriculture Contingency Plans (DACPs) which are technical documents aimed to be ready reckoner for line departments and farming community on prevailing farming systems and technological interventions to manage various weather aberrations such as droughts, floods, cyclones, hailstorms, heat and cold waves addressing different sectors of agriculture including horticulture, livestock, poultry, fisheries. The contingency plans are useful for preparedness and real time implementation towards sustainability of agriculture production system in the events of weather aberrations and extreme climatic events. These DACPs are hosted on ICAR/DAC websites (<http://farmer.gov.in/>, <http://agricoop.nic.in/acp.html>, <http://crida.in/>) and circulated to all state agriculture departments.

National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)

ICAR launched a flagship network project 'National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture' (NICRA), now referred as 'National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture' (NICRA). The major objective of NICRA is to enhance the resilience of Indian agriculture in crops, livestock and fisheries to climatic variability and climate change through development and application of improved production and risk management technologies; to demonstrate the site specific technology packages

on farmers' fields for adapting to current climate risks; and to enhance the capacity (knowledge, skill and management) of scientists and other stakeholders in climate resilient agricultural research and its application. The Technology Demonstration Component (TDC) of NICRA is being implemented in farmers participatory mode in the climatically vulnerable districts of the country through 121 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) spread across the country. Location specific technologies which are developed by the NARES and can impart resilience against climatic vulnerability are being demonstrated in a representative village.

As part of advising the State Governments to take appropriate measures for sustainable production, ICAR along with DAC organizes Interface Meetings with State Governments specially Department of Agriculture to discuss about the seasonal forecast made by IMD and other International Agencies to finalize the action plans for different districts in various States. ICAR-CRIDA also prepares an agro advisory for Rabi season based on rainfall (quantity and distribution) during Kharif season, with recommendations on suitable crops to be cultivated in Rabi season under groundwater irrigated and residual moisture dependent conditions. These advisories are circulated to State Government and KVKs for wider publicity and suitable action.

Promoting animal husbandry among farmers

1290. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any special scheme to promote animal husbandry among farmers to earn additionally, which is also likely to consume crop residue productively and produce organic manure for the good health of soil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of technical and financial assistance extended to farmers for domestication of cows, buffaloes, sheep and goats in Maharashtra, District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) to (c) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is implementing the following schemes to enhance milk production and productivity of bovines thereby enhancing farmers income and which also have significant effect in reducing crop residue productively and provide organic manure for good health of soil:

1. Rasthriya Gokul Mission

(a) National Programme for Bovine Breeding

(b) Indigenous Breeds