

**Special Monetary Allowance to High Court Judges in North-East**

\*85. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that High Court Judges in the North-East are not entitled to Special Monetary Allowances as extended to officers of North-East cadres of the All India Service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Salary and Allowances payable to Judges of High Courts are regulated by the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954. There is no provision of payment of Special Monetary Allowance to the Judges of High Court posted in North-East in the High Court Judges Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder.

The Judges of High Courts and All India Services Officers are governed by separate set of Acts/Rules.

**Ill-effects of climate change on agriculture**

\*86. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether climate change has had an impact on the state of agriculture and fruiting seasons in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has devised or plans to devise any strategy/policy to combat the ill-effects of climate change on farm produce, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Climate change impacts on agriculture are being witnessed all over the world, but countries like India are vulnerable in view of the high population depending on agriculture, pressure on natural resources and poor coping mechanisms. In India, the impact of climate change on agriculture is expected to be more, particularly in crops like wheat. Yield decline are likely to be caused by shortening of growing period, negative impacts on reproduction, grain filling, decrease in water availability and poor vernalization. However, increase in yield has also been predicted in case of some crops.

(b) and (c) The Government has developed numerous adaptation measures to combat effect of climate change on agriculture. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which has been launched in 2010. The strategies and programme of action (POA) aim at transforming agriculture into an ecologically sustainable climate resilient production system by devising appropriate adaptation strategies for ensuring food security, equitable access to food resources, enhancing livelihood opportunities and contributing to economic stability at the national level. Hence the objectives of NMSA are promoting location specific integrated/composite farming systems; soil and moisture conservation measures; comprehensive soil health management; efficient water management practices and mainstreaming technologies for rainfed area development.

The impacts of climate change are global and it is likely to threaten the food security and livelihoods of millions of people in Asia, including India. The Government through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched the National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project addressing challenges posed by climate change on agriculture.

The objective of NICRA is to minimize the crop yield losses due to extreme weather events and can improve the livelihoods of the farmers by demonstrating the technologies across the country. The NICRA project addresses the long term impacts of climate change through research and development of adaptation and mitigation strategies like generation of stress tolerant genotypes, development of conservation agriculture and carbon sequestration practices and technologies. Short-term impacts of climate variability are being addressed through location specific technology demonstrations in farmers' fields to increase the resilience in agriculture due to extreme climate events such as droughts and floods. Climate resilient practices include demonstration of drought tolerant and short duration varieties to cope with drought, flood tolerant varieties in paddy, resource conservation practices, crop diversification and integrated farming systems to enhance the food and livelihood security of farmers across 151 climatically vulnerable districts in the country.

The District Agricultural Contingency Plans (DACP) have been developed in a project mode with financial support from Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. So far 623 contingency plans have been prepared and hosted on ICAR/DAC&FW and ICAR-CRIDA websites. These plans have also been circulated to all State Agriculture Departments. The agricultural contingencies addressed various weather aberrations such as droughts, floods, cyclones, hailstorms, heat and cold waves addressing different sectors of agriculture including horticulture, livestock, poultry and

fisheries. The plans also provide suitable technological interventions to minimize the crop losses due to above weather aberrations. To bring awareness among the stake holders, ICAR in collaboration with DAC&FW has organized National and State level interface meetings in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 before the onset of the season for preparedness assessment. Special emphasis was laid in these meetings on mechanism of implementation of the plans, refinement required and the impacts.

To insulate farmers against the loss of crop due to natural calamities, Government of India has launched Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif season of 2016-17. Government of India approves Central assistance to States under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), which includes crop damage on the recommendation of the Inter Ministerial Central Team constituted on the basis of proposals received from States/UTs.

Keeping in view the impact of climate change and focusing on end to end solution in irrigation sector, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been made operationalised from 2015-16. For faster implementation of 99 major and medium irrigation project by December, 2019, a mission mode implementation has been envisaged to bring 76.03 lakh ha. under irrigation. Besides, for conservation and efficient use of water, micro irrigation is being promoted. So far about 9.5 million ha area has been brought under micro irrigation.

#### **Regularization of contractual safai karamcharies**

\*87. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Railways have taken to abolish or regulate the regularization of contractual safai karamchari jobs, the details thereof;
- (b) in how many stations and coaches has the cleaning work been completely mechanized during 2014-2017, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of trains still running with direct discharge toilets;
- (d) how many such trains have been replaced in the last three years; and
- (e) the Railways' plan for the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) On the Railways, primarily the jobs relating to Safai are carried out by regularly appointed Railway servants designated as Safaiwalas/cleaners. However, in a few departments, the work of cleanliness (including mechanised cleaning) has been outsourced to external agencies