

(b) if so, the details of the criteria used to assess the effects of fertilizers; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to educate the farmers about the right type and right quantity of fertilizers to be used, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Fertiliser Control Order specifies the quality parameters of Chemical fertilisers. The quality of the fertilisers available in the market is monitored by states from time to time. Chemical fertiliser which are cost effective, not detrimental to soil, plant, human and animal health and ecologically safe are recommended for use by the farmers. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, bio fertilizers etc.) of plant nutrients with 4Rs approach *i.e.* right quantity, right time, right mode and right type of fertilizer to ensure judicious use of chemical fertilizers.

Soil test based judicious use of fertiliser is also promoted through Soil Health Cards Scheme of Government of India. In cycle 1 (2015-16 to 2016-17), 10.7 crore farmers were given soil health cards. Similarly in the second cycle (2017-18 to 2018-19), so far around 7 crore farmers have been provided soil test based recommendations of fertilisers through Soil Health cards.

ICAR also imparts training, organizes front-line demonstrations etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects. Government has also been promoting soil test based balanced use of fertilisers under Soil health Cards scheme. Farmers Field schools, demonstrations, training to farmers have been conducted under various schemes such as Soil Health Management, National Food Security Mission, etc. to spread awareness about Judicious of fertilisers.

Declining milk production in the country

†1282. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether concerns have been raised on declining milk production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether price of milk has risen in the recent past in wake of possible shortage of milk in future; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the remedial measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) The milk production in the Country has increased from 165.4 million tonnes in 2016-17 to 176.3 million tonnes in 2017-18 registering an annual growth of 6.6%.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply at (a).

(c) and (d) There is no report on rise in milk price in the recent past in wake of possible shortage of milk in future.

Training to farmers for pisciculture

1283. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farm ponds developed under Government schemes for the period of 2015-17, State-wise;

(b) the expenditure made for the promotion and training under pisciculture for welfare of farmers during the said period; and

(c) whether Government provides interest subsidy on purchase of source products for pisciculture, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries", which has a component on "Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture" with various sub-components *Viz.* Construction of new ponds/tanks and Renovation of existing ponds for both Freshwater and Brackishwater, Fish seed rearing units, Development of water logged area, Productive Utilization of Inland Saline/Alkaline Waters for aquaculture etc. State-wise pond areas (in Ha) brought under aquaculture in various components of the Government schemes during 2015-16 and 2016-17 is furnished in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Expenditure of ₹ 511.305 lakh during 2015-16 and ₹ 686.34 lakh during 2016-17 were made under the Training, Skill Development to fish farmers and other stakeholders' by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and an amount of ₹ 376.87 lakh during 2015-16