

**Assistance to tobacco-growing farmers for
cultivating alternative crops**

*220. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made to ensure that tobacco is purchased from farmers only by Government agencies to create competitive environment between private traders and Government agencies;

(b) the efforts so far made by the Ministry to educate and help tobacco growing farmers for taking up alternative crops;

(c) whether it is a fact that financial assistance has been provided to farmers of some districts in the country for taking up alternative crops; and

(d) if so, details thereof and steps taken or proposed to provide financial assistance to tobacco-growing farmers from Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is not implementing any tobacco development scheme for tobacco growers/farmers. However, the Tobacco Board, Ministry of Commerce and Industry set up under Tobacco Board Act, 1975 is regulating the production and curing of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco having regard to the demand for tobacco in India and abroad, marketability of different types of FCV tobacco and other factors so as to ensure fair and remunerative prices to growers. Tobacco Board is implementing fair and transparent electronic system for sale of FCV tobacco to ensure competition among the buyers in the market. The situation does not necessitate any intervention by Government Agencies for procurement of tobacco.

(b) to (d) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has made budgetary allocations of ₹ 667.00 lakh (Central Share) during 2019-20 under Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), an ongoing sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to encourage tobacco growing farmers to shift to alternative crops/cropping system in tobacco growing States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The programme is being implemented w.e.f. 2015-16 on 60:40 sharing basis between Government of India and State Governments. Department of Agriculture, Maharashtra has not implemented the scheme due to negligible area under tobacco in the State. Under CDP, tobacco growing States have been given flexibility to take suitable activities/

interventions in major tobacco growing districts of the State for replacing the tobacco crop with alternative crops/cropping system as per the cost norms approved under any Centrally Sponsored Scheme/State Scheme. For motivating the farmers, State may also organize study tours/exposure visits and campaigns etc. for highlighting harmful effects of tobacco and long term benefits of alternative crops. In order to encourage tobacco growing farmers to shift to other crops, a National Seminar on Crop Diversification sponsored by DAC&FW was organized by the ICAR-Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) at Rajahmundry to exchange information and experiences of various stakeholders on various issues relating to tobacco diversification. In addition to above, DAC&FW is also supplementing the efforts of the States through implementation of various Crop Development Programmes on Agriculture/Horticulture crops. Tobacco Board, Ministry of Commerce and Industry is working continuously in collaboration with the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) and State Agricultural Departments to provide economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing farmers besides educational and awareness programmes on cultivation of alternative crops to tobacco crops. State Government of Andhra Pradesh has allotted ₹ 20.13 lakh to Nellore district under CDP for replacing tobacco farming during 2018-19.

Funds allocated and utilized for fisheries in Jharkhand

*221. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds allocated and utilized for fisheries in Jharkhand under 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries' Scheme during the last three years and current year;
- (b) the facilities provided to fishermen under various fisheries schemes; and
- (c) the details of the developments which took place in Jharkhand in employment generation and fish production during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): (a) The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries has released an amount of ₹ 3300.60 lakh to the Government of Jharkhand during last three years *i.e.* 2016-17 to 2018-19 for development of fisheries in the State, out of which ₹ 1840.75 lakh has been utilized by the Government of Jharkhand. The Government of Jharkhand is to submit utilization certificate in respect of the balance central funds together with physical and financial progress report for release of Central funds during the current year.