

- (a) whether Government has established automatic weather stations under National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) in various States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of automatic weather stations established under the NADP in the last three years along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per details made available by States, State Government of Odisha has established 145 number of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)/National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) during 2016-17 with financial assistance of ₹ 383.298 lakh. Besides, Government of Andhra Pradesh has also sanctioned one Advanced Centre for Agro Climate Research and Weather Forecasting Centre during 2017-18 at Regional Agricultural Research Station Tirupathi with an outlay of ₹ 240.94 lakh under this scheme with a time line of 3 years for its implementation.

Employment opportunities in agriculture sector

3049. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether employment generation avenues have declined in agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has worked on any action plan for the creation of additional employment opportunities in agriculture sector; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) As per the latest Survey on 'Employment and Unemployment Situation in India' conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), the estimated workforce engaged in agriculture and allied sector has come down from 24.74 crore in 2009-10 to 23.18 crore in 2011-12, *i.e.*, about 6 per cent.

(b) to (d) The shift in workforce from primary (agriculture) sector to secondary and tertiary sectors is a normal phenomenon of the development process experienced by countries across the world and the same is true for India as well.

The Government has launched various schemes aiming to increase production and productivity which make agriculture sector more viable. Besides, Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like encouraging private sector of economy, fast-tracking various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Deendyal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).

Interest subvention scheme to farmers

3050. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken a decision to provide three per cent interest subvention to farmers for timely repayment of crop loan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details regarding the amount provided for this purpose to the Government of Rajasthan during the last three years;
- (d) whether Government of Rajasthan has requested to provide interest subvention in the beginning of the financial year; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India (Gol) has been implementing the Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) since 2006-07 under which short term crop loans upto ₹ 3.00 lakh are made available to farmers at subvented interest rate of 7% per annum. Further from 2009-10 to incentivize the prompt payee farmers, Gol also introduced a provision of Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI) under the Scheme. Presently, under ISS, the Gol provides PRI @3% per annum to the prompt payee farmers for repayment of their crop loans as per the repayment schedule fixed