

irrigation and help enhancement of production.

(d) and (e) To enhance the affordability of farmers for purchase of the various latest Agricultural implements and machinery including Laser leveler so as to boost the farm mechanization in the country, a special dedicated scheme Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) has been introduced by Government, under which subsidy is provided for purchase of various types of Agricultural implements and machinery used for tillage, sowing, planting, harvesting, reaping, threshing, plant protection, inter cultivation and residue management at the rate of 40% to general category farmers and 50% for SC/ST/women/small and marginal farmers. Besides this, to make available farm machinery at the door steps of the farmers on rent basis, Custom Hiring Centres are promoted by providing the assistance at the rate of 40% of the project cost to individual farmer upto a project cost of Rs.60 lakh and 80% to the group of farmers upto a project cost of Rs. 10 lakh. A special consideration for the farmers of North Eastern Region (NER) is available, 100% assistance limited to Rs. 1.25 lakh is provided to NER farmers for procurement of various agricultural machinery and equipments and 95% subsidy upto a project cost of Rs. 10 lakh is provided to group of NER farmers for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 203.

Measures to upgrade agriculture technology

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

(a) whether Government has any major programme to upgrade agriculture technology, provide quality seeds and farm equipment involving some of the best available outside the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government intends to promote modified traditional agriculture technology which requires use of cattle, at least for farmers having small land holdings; and

(d) whether introduction of fuel-driven farm equipment and tractors, the menace of adverse effect of chemical fertilizers on soil, stray animals, shortage of organic manure, crop burning, unemployment in rural areas, etc., have caused greater damage than doing good, especially to the small farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government is consistently making efforts to overcome obsolete technology and introduce new technology in agriculture, such as, High Yield Variety (HYV) seeds, Agricultural Mechanization, Micro Irrigation, crop forecast using space and related technology, transparent price discovery for remunerative prices for the farmers for their produce through competitive on-line bidding system through e-NAM, speedy collection and dissemination of market information and data through AGMARK.NET, SMS advisories through mKisan portal on various crop related matters to farmers and through Soil Health Card, balanced and judicious use of fertilizer etc.

Under Sub Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP), Government is implementing seed village programme to upgrade the quality of farmers saved seeds. Training is also provided to farmers for production and technology aspects. New climate resilient, temperature tolerant and salt tolerant seed varieties are developed through germplasm resources.

Governments supports the new technology by providing subsidy to the farmer for purchase of Agriculture implements under Submission of Agriculture Mechanization and promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue management. Both the above schemes support the indigenous as well as imported technology of agricultural machinery.

(c) Yes Sir. To boost the farm mechanization in the country, a special dedicated scheme Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) has been introduced by Government, under which subsidy is provided for purchase of various types of improved Agricultural implements for various operations including animal drawn.

(d) Improved agricultural equipments and machinery as well as tractors as a prime mover are essential inputs for modern agriculture. It enhances productivity besides reducing human drudgery and cost of cultivation.

There is no harmful effect of chemical fertilizers with recommended doses and judicious use. However, imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may cause micronutrient deficiencies in the soil as evident

in study on - 'Long Term Fertilizer Experiments' 'in different soil types under various cropping system.

To address the issue of stray animals, under the activities of Rashtriya Gokul Mission, there is a provision for assistance for establishment of Gokul Gram for maintaining productive and unproductive cattle. Additionally, Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is also implementing schemes namely (i) Provision of Shelter House for looking after animals in distress and (ii) Animal Welfare Board of India Plan Scheme for maintaining the stray animals in distress, arrangement of feed & fodder, their treatment and human education programmes for welfare of animals.

To promote the production and use of organic fertilizers / natural manures. Government has introduced various programmes such as Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) since 2015 to encourage chemical free organic farming for the farmers through State Governments. Under these schemes, support has been provided for formation of farmers' clusters/ Farmer Producer Organization; incentives to farmers for input procurement, value addition including post harvest infrastructure creation, packaging, branding, publicity, transportation, organic fairs etc.

To address air pollution due to crop burning, a new Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi' for the period from 2018-19 has been started to subsidize machinery required for in-situ management of crop residue. Due to this initiative overall, about 15% and 41% reduction in number of burning events were observed in current year (2018) as compared to that in 2017 and 2016, respectively in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

To create a pool of skilled manpower and promote wage/self-employment among rural youth and farmers skill training of short duration under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Bxtension(SMAH) is imparted to the rural youths & farmers in agriculture & allied sectors through Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and State Agricultural Universities (SAU). Besides skill training of long duration are operationalised to impart skill-based training to rural youth & farmers on agri-based vocational areas in compliance with National Policy on Skill Development & Entrepreneurship-2015 in agriculture & allied sectors.

SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Sir, I wish to emphasize that despite so many efforts taken by the Government, the implementation of programmes is not visible to

[Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati]

that extent. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government proposes to make special efforts to develop a parallel mechanism to monitor implementation of the programmes and schemes.

श्री परशोत्तम रुपाला: माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य की मंशा है कि मॉनिटरिंग के लिए कोई parallel mechanism डेवलप किया जाए। मैं मानता हूँ कि ऐसी अभी तो कोई योजना नहीं है। अगर राज्य की सरकार इस प्रकार की कोई योजना बनाकर, अपनी कार्ययोजना के तहत भारत सरकार को रखेंगे, तो हम इसे जरूर देखेंगे।

SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government has tied up with some of the countries which are known for advanced agriculture technology, especially, for small farmland holdings to lend their technology, and, if so, which are those countries and the current status of such tie-ups.

श्री परशोत्तम रुपाला: सर, भारत सरकार द्वारा कई प्रगतिशील देशों के साथ इस प्रकार के एमओयूज़ हुए हैं। खासकर हम इज़रायल के साथ भारत सरकार के समझौते के तहत centre of excellence particular चीज़ों के भी लगा रहे हैं। जैसे महाराष्ट्र में तीन centre of excellence आम के लिए लगाए हैं। ऐसे ही अन्य राज्यों में भी लगाए गए हैं। उसके साथ हमारा water management और drip irrigation, micro irrigation के लिए भी समझौता है और इस पर काम चल रहा है।

SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Sir, since the Minister mentioned Israel, the productivity in all these countries is so high, would the Minister kindly inform what action is being taken to increase productivity? We have been continuously talking about adopted-technologies from these countries. The per hectare productivity in these countries is so huge, say, for example, when I saw ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question, please.

SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Sir, I said, 'whether the Minister would tell me what action is being taken.' The per-plant productivity of pumpkin weighs 200 kilos. Here it weighs what? Five kilos! What are we doing to increase per hectare productivity, per plant productivity? What is the concrete action taken?

श्री परशोत्तम रुपाला: माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य श्री के.जे. एल्फोंस साहब की यह चिंता सही है कि उत्पादकता पर हेक्टेयर पर प्लांट में हम अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानकों से पीछे चल रहे हैं। इसी समस्या का समाधान करने के लिए हमारे आईसीएओआर के माध्यम से बीजों की गुणवत्ता में सुधार करने के लिए उच्चतम क्वालिटी के बीज -- अभी किसान एक बहुत बड़ी समस्या global warming का सामना कर रहा है। इसके चलते किसानों को जो नुकसान हो रहा

है, वे उसका सामना कर सकें, इसके लिए हम ऐसे बीजों के संशोधन में लगे हुए हैं। बेसिकली, श्री संभाजी छत्रपती साहब का जो सवाल था, वह इन्होंने यंत्रीकरण के ऊपर ही रखा था। यंत्रीकरण भी yield डेवलपमेंट बढ़ाने के लिए सबसे बड़ा तरीका है। यंत्रीकरण के उपमिशन के द्वारा हमने 49,000 किसानों को ट्रेनिंग दी है और किसानों के लिए हमने एक नया concept custom hiring center लागू करवाया है। जहाँ किसान खुद नहीं खरीद सकता - जैसे ओला-ऊबर का प्रयोग हम ट्रेवलिंग के लिए कर सकते हैं, ऐसे ही ऐप के माध्यम से अब किसानों को अपने फार्म के लिए ट्रैक्टर भी मिलें, इस प्रकार की सुविधा का प्रयोग हम कर रहे हैं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 204.

Implementation of NFSA

*204. LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.): Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the norms and procedures followed to identify the beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA);

(b) the action plan formulated by Government to ensure proper and impartial implementation of NFSA; and

(c) whether any improvement in the standard of nutrition of the poor people, particularly children and women, have been noticed after the implementation of the Act, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) NFSA legally entitles upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive highly subsidized foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The percentage coverage under the TPDS in rural and urban areas for each State was to be determined by the Central Government and the total number of persons to be covered in such rural and urban areas of the State was to be calculated on the basis of the population estimates as per the latest census of which the relevant figures had been published. Coverage under the Act is under two categories viz. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and priority households (PHH). As per provisions of the Act, within the state/UT-wise coverage, State Governments/UT