

Cultivable land in Chhattisgarh and MP

†1324. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total area of cultivable land in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) the details of increase and decrease in cultivable land during the last three years;
- (c) the reasons for increase or decrease in the agricultural land; and
- (d) the details of action being taken to overcome the decrease in cultivable land, in view of the fast growing population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The net-sown area in the States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, was 197.52 lakh ha. during 1995-96 which increased to 199.4 lakh ha. in 1997-98. Therefore, there is an increase of 1.88 lakh ha. during the above period. The increase in net sown area is mainly due to implementation of various land-based programmes in the States.

Availability of Sunflower seeds

1325. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand for Sunflower Oil in the market;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that farmers are facing huge problems for non-availability of Sunflower Seeds due to which they are not in a position to grow Sunflower Seeds, to supply in the market; and
- (c) if so, what are the proposals with Government to increase the production of sunflower Seeds, to meet the demand of the agriculturists, who are producing Sunflower Seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The demand for a particular oil depends upon its market price. The people in general use edible oil of their choice available in the country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Agriculture being a State subject, the production and distribution of seed is the responsibility of the State Government through their Department of Agriculture, State Seed Corporations, State Seed Farms, Cooperative Agencies, Agro-Industry Corporations, Private Seed Producers etc. However, the efforts of State Government are supplemented by two national level Seed Producing Organisations like National Seeds Corporation (NSC) and State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI). As per information provided by Sunflower growing States during Zonal Seed Review meeting, which is held every year, there is no shortage of Sunflower Seed & sufficient quantity of seed was made available for distribution to the farmers.

(c) The Government is providing financial assistance under Oilseed Production Programmes (OPP) for production of Sunflower Seeds to the State Governments. The State Governments as well as seed producing agencies are producing sufficient quantity of Sunflower Seed to meet the demands of the farmers.

Falling prices of Agricultural products in Karnataka

1326. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that due to globalization and WTO conditionalities, the prices of many agricultural products were collapsing in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to protect the interests of farmers of that State, to minimize the negative affects of WTO conditionalities on farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Growth of Agriculture Sector

1327. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the recommendation of the Working Group of the Planning Commission, an investment of Rs. 736,570 crore in the farm sector would be needed during the Tenth Five Year Plan, to achieve planned growth of 4 per cent;