

banks and industries. In one of the recommendations, this task force had recommended research in Farm Forestry to provide a back-up for the extension and training programme.

(b) to (d). The recommendations of this task force have been accepted by the Government. The States have been requested to implement the recommendations of the task force. No implementation report was called from the States.

Scheme for Promotion of Agricultural Operations in Dry Land

2355. SHRI DAULAT SINHJI JADEJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to promote agricultural operation in dry land ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

(c) the area and State where dry farming methods have been introduced so far ;

(d) the result achieved ; and

(e) if it is successful what steps are being taken to popularise this method for increasing agricultural products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Out of about 143 million hectares of net sown area in the country, about 105 million hectares (73.4% of net sown area) is rainfed. Prior to the announcement of new 20-Point Programme of the Prime Minister, agricultural development was largely concentrated in irrigated areas which are capable of producing sure and quick results. With the inclusion of development of dryland farming in the new 20-Point Programme, vigorous and concerted efforts

are being made through various programmes for stepping up and stabilising production and productivity in rainfed/dry-land areas. The Schemes/Programmes taken up/proposed to be taken up are enumerated below:—

- (1) Intensive development of micro-watersheds in each of identified blocks ;
- (2) Rainfed Farming Development projects to be implemented with the assistance of World Bank in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- (3) Adoption of villages for their integrated development by each of the rural branches of commercial banks.
- (4) Launching of 23 model projects in the vicinity of ICAR's Dryland Research Centres with the assistance of Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation.
- (5) Consideration of a Dryland Development Project in Madhya Pradesh with thrust on production of pulses and oilseeds effectively utilise kharif and rabi follows with the assistance of International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- (6) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are continuing integrated dryland agricultural development programme in selected districts.
- (7) Indian Council of Agricultural Research is intensifying research on its 23 dryland research centres. In addition, four operational research projects located at Hyderabad, Bangalore (Hebbal), Ludhiana (Hoshiarpur) and Ranchi are in progress. Four more operational research projects are proposed to be taken up in the current plan at Hissar, Sholapur, Rewa, Anantapur, Rajkot.

- (8) International Crops Research Institute for Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT) at Hyderabad have evolved dryland farming systems which the States like Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka etc. are testing for further adoption.
- (9) Kandi Watershed and Area Development Project in Punjab has been launched with the assistance of World Bank.
- (10) Propagation of Water Conservation/Harvesting Technology in Rainfed areas.
- (11) Provision of inputs like seed-cum-fertiliser drills, seeds of improved varieties and plant protection measures for dryland farming areas.
- (5) Livestock and forage development programmes.
- (6) Social forestry.
- (7) Intensive fertiliser promotion campaign.
In promising rainfed districts.
- (8) The Ministry of Rural Development are also operating Drought Prone Areas Programme where development of dryland farming is one of the important components.

Besides, following schemes for promotion of agricultural development in dryland areas have also been taken up :

- (1) Agricultural Extension and Training Programme.
- (2) Crop oriented programmes including minikit programme for oilseeds and foodgrains including pulses, intensive cotton development programme, intensive jute development programme, intensive oilseed development programmes etc.
- (3) Supply of inputs including seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, agricultural machinery and credit.
- (4) Land and water resources development programmes including schemes on soil conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects, Integrated Watershed Management in the catchments of flood Prone Rivers of Indo-Gangetic basin.

(d) The efforts so far have been to test, refine and adopt dry farming technology on cultivator's fields through operational pilot research projects. The results of Integrated dryland Agricultural Development Projects implemented at 24 locations to cover various agro-climatic conditions indicate 50% to 100% yield increase can conveniently be achieved on farmer's fields. The technology tested and refined in operational research projects and the projects of other research organisations is being extended to larger areas in various states under new 20-Point Programme.

(e) All the State Governments have been advised to introduce intensive dryland development programme in one selected micro-watershed in each of the identified blocks and to hold workshops for re-orientation of State officers in the dryland farming technology. The dry farming technology in all T. & V. States is transmitted to the farmers through the scheduled visits of village level workers. In pursuance to Prime Minister's new 20-Point Programme, the State/Union Territories have also been requested to lay emphasis on adoption of dryland development technology with particular reference to crops and cropping system, contingency cropping plans, use of seed-cum-fertiliser drills, pest management, input management, credit management, coordination and training etc.