

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:182
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015
LONG TERM STRATEGY ON AGRICULTURE
Kataria Shri Rattan Lal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken adequate action and formulated long term strategies to increase production, productivity and quality of food crops, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether improvement in quality of dairy, fisheries, poultry products and other issues concerning the farmers were discussed in the Twelfth Agriculture Science Congress held at the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, if so, the details of the issues discussed and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of impact of climate change on agriculture and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the corrective action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 182 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10/03/2015 REGARDING "LONG TERM STRATEGY ON AGRICULTURE"

(a) Yes, Madam. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has undertaken action and formulated long term strategies to increase production, productivity and quality of food crops through development of high yielding stress tolerant varieties suited to different agro climatic conditions of the country. A total of 371 high yielding varieties/ hybrids of different food crops developed by the National Agricultural Research System have been released by Central & State Varieties Release Committees during the last five years (Annexure I). About 2.86 lakh quintals of quality breeder seeds of improved varieties/hybrids of food crops was made available to the seed producing agencies during the last five years (2009-10 to 2013-14) to fulfill the demand of seed chain to ensure higher productivity in the relevant states through cultivation of improved varieties/hybrids and ensure higher production (Annexure II). The sustained production of breeder seeds of highest purity and continued development of high yielding varieties is one of the major long term strategies of ICAR for spread of improved cultivars.

Long term measures have been initiated through sequencing of genomes of important plants and microbes, targeted integration of economically important genes for crop yield improvement, molecular breeding, bioinformatics, genetic engineering, inter-disciplinary research on hybrids, agro-biodiversity, genomics and bio-fortification for qualitative and quantitative improvement in food crops. The ICAR and other research organizations have undertaken agricultural research projects related to biotechnology and development of genetically modified food crops as a continued long term strategy. In XII Five Year Plan, ICAR has given emphasis on application of cutting edge science through "Consortia Research Platforms" and "Incentivization of Research by ICAR-DARE" in further enhancing development of newer crop varieties and technologies to increase production, productivity and quality of food crops. Further, two new research institutions namely "National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, Raipur" and "Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology, Ranchi" have been approved for establishment to strengthen and intensify focused research for achieving higher productivity of food crops.

(b) Yes, Madam. The following issues were discussed in 12th Agriculture Science Congress:-

Linking small holder farmers with the market, knowledge status of smallholder farmers for quality of produce, creating markets for smallholders, peri-urban markets, transport and cold chain for agriculture produce.

Mechanization & post-harvest technologies for small farmers, saving post-harvest losses, agro-processing crop/animal/fish farmer produces and protected agriculture.

Intensification of livestock production for small holder and landless farmers, increasing artificial insemination coverage and nutritional access to animals, extending veterinary services to farmers and backyard poultry production system.

Skill and human resource development for diversification of employment and income opportunity, harnessing new opportunities for smallholder farmers.

(c) Yes, Madam. The network project on "National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture" (NICRA) was initiated in 2011. The project aims to enhance resilience of Indian agriculture to climate change and climate variability through Strategic Research, Technology Demonstration, Capacity Building and Sponsored/Competitive Grant Projects. The research on adaptation and mitigation covers crops, livestock, fisheries and natural resource management. The details are given in Annexure-III.

(d) The DARE/ICAR has developed technologies on site specific nutrient management, soil carbon sequestrations, solid waste management, enhancing nutrient and water use efficiencies, abiotic stress management, resource conservation technology, organic farming to ensure efficient management of land and water resources. ICAR is also providing requisite technology support for optimizing crop productivity of dryland/rainfed farming in arid and semi-arid regions through efficient crop planning including agroforestry, development of short duration drought resistant varieties, intercropping, rain-water harvesting and storage for supplementary irrigation, Integrated watershed management, micro irrigation, land management, integrated nutrient management and short/medium range weather forecasting.