

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6336

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015

MODERN FARM TECHNOLOGIES

Chautala Shri Dushyant;Chavda Shri Vinod;Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Karandlaje Km. Shobha;Kothapalli Smt. Geetha;Rori Shri Charanjeet Singh;Vanaroja Smt. R.;Venugopal Shri K. C.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has developed several farm technologies such as post harvest technology, water saving devices, crop monitoring satellite system and technology to improve crop varieties for revitalisation of agriculture sector in the country, if so, the details thereof along with the success achieved in improving agriculture sector thereunder;
- (b) whether usage of farm mechanization in the country is comparatively low as compared to advanced countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of subsidy/incentive provided to the farmers including the farmers of desert area for the procurement of agricultural equipments during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to undertake remote analysis to assess soil moisture for crop development in the water scarce areas in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to check paddy straw burning that raises serious ecological issues in various parts of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a): Government has introduced and is supporting various farm technologies to sustain growth of agriculture under various Missions/ Schemes, such as integ- rated farming system/ cropping system with appropriate resource conservation technologies; development of high yielding pest/ disease tolerant crop varieties/ hybrids; water use efficiency enhancement through micro irrigation; soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers; dissemination of agriculture related information to the farming community through various ICT enabled delivery channels including SMSs, internet kiosks, farmers portals etc; scientific storage of both perishable and non-perishable produce; precision farming; increasing the reach of farm mechanization by promoting "Custom Hiring Centres", creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipments; promotion of latest technologies on crops specific cultivation; protected cultivation of horticultural products, organic farming etc.

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation through its Centre, Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC) also carries out crop assessment and monitoring using Indian Satellite data. District level pre-harvest crop production forecast and district / sub-district level drought assessments are carried out using satellite data, meteorological models and ground observations (collected through smart phones).

Application of these technologies has enhanced the overall production of food grains, horticulture crops, vegetables, livestock, poultry and fisheries. Food grains production has increased almost four fold during last six decades and the production of horticultural crops is increased from 96.56 Million Tonnes in 1991-92 to 277.4 Million Tonnes in 2013-14.

(b) & (c): Farm power available per hectare of land is one of the important indices of progress in agriculture mechanization. Farm power availability in Indian agriculture was 1.73 kW/ha in 2011-12 which is substantially low as compared to developed countries like Japan, USA, UK, France and Germany. It indicates that India is behind the developed countries in terms of utilization of farm power which is mainly due to the fact that the guiding principle in mechanizing Indian agriculture has been to maintain a socially desirable mix of human labour, draught animals and mechanical power and growth of agricultural mechanization has been closely linked with overall agricultural development of different agro-climatic regions of the country.

(d): Financial assistance to promote agricultural mechanization in the country including the desert areas is provided under various schemes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) and Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM).

Details of funds allocated/released to the State Governments during the last three years and the current year, State-wise under these

schemes is given at Annexure-I.

(e): No such proposal at present in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

(f): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has formulated a 'National Policy for Management of Crop Residues (NPMCR)-2014' which has been circulated to all the State Governments for its implementation, which mainly focus on the technological interventions, diversified uses of crop residue, capacity building and awareness generation, laws and legislation to curb crop residue burning and monitoring for ensuring effective implementation of provisions of NPMCR.