

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3736

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2014

AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the aim and the objective for launching of the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) scheme in the country and the extent to which the objectives are achieved thereunder, so far;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to impart training to the farmers on the agricultural technology and innovations which are suitable for crops requiring less water on the line of Israel and if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated to improve agri-tech infrastructure in the field of agriculture during the current year;
- (c) whether there are reports of sale of China made agricultural technology including power tillers at higher prices in the domestic market in the country and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to promote cooperative agriculture in the country including Rajasthan; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a): Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme was launched in 2005-06 with the aim to support state Governments' efforts for revitalizing extension system through various farmer centric extension activities. The key objectives of the scheme include setting up of autonomous institutions at the State/ District/Block level, encouraging multiagency and broad-based extension strategies adopting group approach to extension and facilitating convergence of programmes in planning, execution and implementation.

So far, over 12000 dedicated manpower for extension has been provided, 161082 Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) have been mobilized and 76190 Farm Schools have been set up. More than 290 lakh farmers have benefitted through different extension related activities (including training, exposure visits, farm schools, demonstrations, etc.) under the Scheme.

(b): Under ATMA scheme regular need based capacity building of farmers is taken up. ATMA guidelines provided for utilization of programmatic funds on rainfed areas at least in proportion to the extent of rainfed areas in the district. Training on water use efficiency through micro irrigation is taken up under the Mission for Integrated Development of Agriculture. Training to farmers on scientific crop production technologies including efficient use of water is imparted under NFSM. The trainings provided by KVKs include effective use of available water, enhanced water use efficiency, improved micro irrigation system, in situ water harvesting, crop technologies related to water saving.

Funds for agri-tech infrastructure for the purposes given above are provided as per respective scheme guidelines and budget availability.

(c): Various agricultural equipment and machines including power tillers are also imported from different countries including China. However, the price of individual make and model of machine/equipment (whether indigenous or imported) is not regulated by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. The prices are governed by market forces and vary from state to state. However, as informed by few manufacturers/ suppliers of power tillers enlisted for grant of subsidy under Government assisted schemes/ programmes, the average selling price of Chinese make power Tillers in India is Rs.1,25,000 to 1,45,000 per unit which includes the basic cost of imported power tiller, Import Duty, Cess, Additional Duty, assembling charges, cost of additional indigenous components, freight, insurance, taxes, dealers margin and the profit margin of supplier etc. There are only two manufacturers who manufacture power tillers indigenously. The average selling cost of indigenous power tillers in India is Rs.1,50,000.

(d): No, Madam.

(e): Not Applicable.