

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3342

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016

Farm Equipment

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farm equipment for use in the different sizes of land holdings are available in the country and if so, the details and utilisation status thereof and the steps taken by the Government to promote collective farming in the country including Rajasthan;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up custom hiring centres to rent expensive farm equipment to the farmers and if so, the details thereof along with the involvement of private sector in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has launched "Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav" scheme to encourage agriculture scientists to adopt villages and give suitable advice to the farmers about their farms and if so, the details thereof along with the villages covered thereunder in the country including Rajasthan;
- (d) whether the Government is planning to have better coordination between agricultural technologies and sustainable development and improvement in crop yield and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard; and
- (e) whether major concerns of pesticide usage in agri-ecosystem were raised in the recently held international biodiversity conference and if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): The improved farm equipment for use in different sizes of land holdings are available in the country which suit to different power sources and unit operations such as Land Development , Tillage, Sowing, Planting, Reaping, Digging, Inter Cultivation, Residue management, Forage, Harvesting, Threshing and Plant Protection equipments are available in the country. The utilization of these equipments during 2012-13 to 2014-15 is enclosed as an Annexure I.

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Department Of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is not promoting collective farming in the country.

(b): The Custom Hiring Centers (CHC) are promoted through Sub Mission of Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY). The financial assistance for setting up of CHC is provided to rural entrepreneurs, progressive farmer and Self Help Groups (SHG) in above schemes @ 40% of the project cost limited to a project cost upto Rs.2.50 crore.

State wise establishment of CHC through above schemes during 2014-15 to 2016-17 is enclosed as an Annexure II.

(c): The Government has launched "Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav" Scheme in August 2015 to encourage agriculture scientists to adopt villages and give suitable advice to the farmers on technical and other related aspects in a time frame through personal visits or on telephone. Under this scheme, a group of four scientists have adopted 5 villages. Scientists also create awareness among farmers about climate change, other customized technologies, protective measures, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and other issues of local and national importance. In this process of social transformation, scientists involve local Panchayats, development agencies, NGOs and private organisations. In this initiative, 20,000 scientists of National Agricultural Research and Education System (NARES) are working.

The State wise villages covered in the scheme "Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav" during 2015-16 in the country including Rajasthan is enclosed as an Annexure III.

(d): Government has introduced various farm technologies to sustain development of agriculture and improvement in crop yield under various Missions/ Schemes, such as integrated 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.

(e): The 1st International Agrobiodiversity Congress conference was held in New Delhi from 6th to 9th November, 2016 and was attended by 900 participants from 60 countries. The concerns of pesticides usage in agri-ecosystem were raised and discussed in the conference is as per below:

- (i) The impact of the neonicotinoid insecticides on pollinators not restricted to honeybee and measures to overcome were suggested.
- (ii) Birds play an important role in pest management and the impact of pesticides on insect feeding birds and measures to be adopted.
- (iii) The role of insecticides on natural enemies of insect pests and others in the ecosystem.
- (iv) Soil health as we see is not soil nutrition but interplay of soil insects, arthropods and microbes. It was highlighted that pesticides can have serious detrimental impact on soil fauna impacting soil health because of pesticides.
- (v) It was highlighted that agrobiodiversity is better served through pheromones, natural enemies, biopesticides and host plant resistance and pesticides is not and should not be the automatic choice.

As regards to the outcome of the conference is concerned , based on the detailed deliberations, the delegates unanimously adopted preamble and the declarations as enclosed in Annexure IV.