

(b) if so, whether Government has made any study to assess the performance of each of these schemes during 2009-10 and 2010-11;

(c) if so, the outcome of such study;

(d) whether Government proposes to reform such schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) At present about 21.8 per cent population in the country are living below the poverty line (mixed reference period).

(b) to (e) As per the Mid-Term Appraisal of the agricultural schemes of the 11th Plan by the Planning Commission, agricultural growth rate has accelerated compared to the earlier period. For increasing the production and productivity in the agriculture sector, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched a National Mission on Micro Irrigation in 2010-11. Further, allocation of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has increased considerably from Rs.5560.00 crore in 2007-08 to Rs.17254.00 crore in 2010-11 facilitating more investment in agriculture covering a large number of crops and wider range of activities to supplement the efforts of the farmers to increase agricultural production and thereby income of the farmers.

Strategies for better production of pulses

1728. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a bumper crop of pulses is expected this year in the country;

(b) if so, the estimates thereof and the measures taken by Government for ensuring better price to the farmers;

(c) whether Government is aware that for increasing the production of pulses, massive seed production, identification of niche areas and better water management are required; and

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to initiate steps to ensure that these strategies are implemented for better production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the 2nd advance estimates released by the E&S, the total pulses production in the

country during 2010-11 is about 16.51 million tons as which is an all times record in the country. For ensuring better price to the farmers, the minimum support price of pulses is increased during 2010-11. The increase in MSP compared to last year is Rs.700/- per qtl for Arhar (tur), Rs.410/- for Moong, Rs.380/- for Urd, Rs.340/- for gram and Rs.380/- for Masur (Lentil) per qtl.

(c) and (d) Government of India is implementing National Food Security Mission-pulses in 16 major pulses producing states in country to increase the production and productivity of pulses. Under this programme, massive seed production is being encouraged by providing assistance for production of breeder, foundation and certified seeds, purchase of breeder seeds, distribution of certified seeds. Better water management and water use efficiency is being ensured through provision of assistance to the farmers for purchasing pump sets, sprinkler sets and pipes for carrying water from water sources to the crop fields for increasing the irrigated area of pulses. Under the programme, assistance is also provided to the farmers for Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Farm Implements, technology demonstration, extension support etc under this programme for increased production of pulses.

Under new initiatives of Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulses Village in Rainfed Areas programme and Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India, asset creation through construction of water ponds, dug wells, shallow tube wells, repair of irrigation channels, micro irrigation for providing life saving irrigation to pulses is being provided highest priority. Besides, Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) was also launched from Kharif, 2010 as a part of NFSM-Pulses for demonstration of Production and Protection Technologies as Village Level Compact Blocks for enhanced production and productivity of pulses as well as motivating farmers for increased investment in promoting pulses production. Other crop development schemes of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) are also being implemented for enhancing agricultural production including that of pulses.

Productivity of pulses

1729. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether productivity of pulses in the country is at par with that in advanced countries including China;