

(c) and (d) During 10th Plan ICAR has initiated a Network Project on Organic Farming for developing package of practices of different crops and cropping systems for organic farming in different agro-ecological regions of the country.

Latest Technologies for Farmers

1897. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister while speaking at the Golden Jubilee Convocation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in February this year, has observed that farm technologies are not reaching farmers on ground;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any concrete steps on the observations of the Prime Minister;

(c) the immediate steps taken by Government to ensure latest farm technologies reaches farmers on ground; and

(d) the role to be played by various State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) The Prime Minister has stated that one of the major concerns has been that extension services system is no longer sufficiently robust; that infrastructure of support at the district level needs to be revitalized; and that Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and the Agriculture Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) have to play a major role in the process of revitalization and transformation of extension network.

(b) and (c) Conversions and synergy between activities of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras and ATMAs is being strengthened, as is the collaboration amongst ICAR institutes themselves and amongst ICAR institutes on the other hand, and the Agricultural Universities and the non-government organizations on the other. The KVKs are strengthening their mandate of assessment, refinement and management of technologies through activities such as front line demonstrations.

(d) Agriculture is the State subject and the States are primarily looking at extension to the village and panchayat levels.

Implementation of RKVY

1898. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fund earmarked under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), State-wise across the country during Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred by each State; and

- (c) whether the targets have been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) State-wise allocation and release of funds under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and expenditure reported by the States during Eleventh Five year Plan is given in Statement [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to SQ/USQ No. 1871 (Part (a))].

(c) RKVY was launched in August, 2007 with the objective to incentivize the states to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors and to provide flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing projects in agriculture and allied sectors. Accordingly, States have increased expenditure to agriculture and allied sector in the State Plan from Rs. 8770.16 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 22158.46 crore in 2010-11 (RE). In percentage term this translates into increased expenditure on agriculture and allied sector from 4.88% of total State Plan Expenditure in 2006-07 to 6.04% in 2010-11 (RE).

Production of crops compared to developed countries

1899. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the crop yield per hectare is very less in the country, as compared to the developed countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the assessed potential as against the yield; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard to improve the crop yield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) As per reports of Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) for 2010 (latest available) the yield of major crops in India is lower as compared to developed countries. A comparative position of yield of major crops in India *vis-a-vis* developed countries for 2010 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The yield of different varieties of crops is assessed by growing them at different locations of various zones of the country under All-India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP). As per result of Front Line Demonstrations conducted at farmers' fields with improved varieties and recommended packages of practices for cultivation in various crops, 15-20% higher yield can be achieved in India through proper management of cultivation practices at farmers' fields.

(d) In order to increase production and productivity of agricultural crops in the country, a number of Crop Development Schemes and Programmes, namely: