Statement

Modalities and admissible financial assistance:

A.   Diesel Subsidy Scheme:

Under this scheme, 50% of the cost of diesel for supplementary and protective irrigation will be provided as financial assistance to farmers, limited to 2 ha per farmer, which will be equally shared by Government of India (GOI) and respective State Government/Union Territory. GOI's contribution will be capped at Rs. 750 per ha. The scheme would operate till 30th September, 2012 in the following areas:

(i)   Districts where rainfall deficit was more than 50% as on 15th July, 2012, as per India Meteorological Department (IMD) data, or

(ii)   Talukas and districts declared as drought affected areas by the respective State Governments; or

(iii) Areas with prolonged dry spell with rainfall deficit of 60% or more, for any continuous 15 days period, beginning from 15th July, 2012.

B.   Enhanced Seed Subsidy Scheme:

Under this scheme, ceiling on seeds subsidy is enhanced from the rate of Rs.500 per quintal to Rs.700 per quintal in respect of cereals, from Rs. 1200 per quintal to Rs.2000 per quintal in respect of pulses and oilseeds, and from Rs.800 per quintal to Rs.1000 per quintal in respect of coarse cereals. This enhancement will be available under various ongoing schemes of DAC namely Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Programme (INSIMP) and Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India Programme (BGREI) etc.

R&D Funding Scheme

*294. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of funds released by Government under R&D Funding Scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

(b)   the details of amount spent/unspent by State Governments during the last three years;

(c)   the details of results/objectives achieved by Government during the last three years; and

(d)   whether Government is satisfied with the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) There is no State-based R&D Funding Scheme in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

The Ministry has supported R&D at various academic and R&D institutions directly without the involvement of the State Governments in the areas of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology.

The Working Groups (set up by the Ministry, consisting of experts) in various relevant domains review the respective project proposals. Based on the recommendations of the Working Groups, projects are initiated. The projects initiated are reviewed and monitored at regular intervals by Project Review and Steering Groups set up for this purpose. Based on review, the next installment of the R&D grant is released. Any unspent balance is deducted from the next installment of the grant due.

Contents in NCERT textbooks

*295. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)　whether Government has recently decided to set up an institutional mechanism along the lines of the Academic Councils established in Universities, that will have the final word on contents in NCERT textbooks;

(b)　if so, whether the State Governments which are trying to remove parts from the NCERT textbooks would also be checked;

(c)　if so, the details thereof; and

(d)　to what extent the mechanism adopted by Government on the vetting of NCERT textbooks would be honoured by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The mechanism for approval of content in school textbooks is different from the mechanism established in Universities. As regards National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks, Government of India has constituted a National Monitoring Committee (NMC) in 2005 to oversee the process of syllabus formation and textbooks writing, publication and distribution. Terms of reference of the Committee are:

(i)　To ensure that syllabi and textbooks finalized by the NCERT reflect the values enshrined in the Constitution in the organization of knowledge in all subjects;

(ii)　To ensure that the main thrust of the NCF 2005, *i.e.* to reduce curricular burden is fully reflected and carried out in the syllabi and textbooks;