

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The main reasons for the gap in yield levels are as under:

(i) Lack of assured irrigation facilities and more dependance on rainfed farming in the country.

(ii) Lesser use of agricultural inputs due to smaller holdings of the majority of farmers and lower resource capability.

(iii) Low level adoption of improved crop production technology by resource poor farmers of the country.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

(i) Efforts are being made to increase the irrigation potential of the country through various irrigation schemes.

(ii) For judicious use of irrigation water incentive is being provided to the farmers of selected states for purchase of sprinkler sets under Intensive Cotton Development Programme.

(iii) Incentives are being provided to the resource poor farmers for use of seeds of high yielding varieties. Micro-nutrients, herbicides, pesticides, plant protection equipments and improved farm implements, etc. Through various crop production oriented programmes.

(iv) For quick transfer of latest crop production technology incentives are also being provided for organisation of field demonstrations and farmers trainings.

#### **Low Cost Pump-Sets**

601. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAOVADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small industries Testing and Research centre has developed a low cost pump-set which consumes less power;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to popularise the use of these pump-sets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). The pump-set is at design stage. The question of taking steps to popularise the same does not arise.

#### **Commission On Kerosene**

[*Translation*]

602. SHRI RAMTAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from Bihar for increasing the rates of commission of the distribution of kerosene oil under the public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. This is under consideration of the Govt.

[*English*]

#### **States Reorganisation Commission**

603. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: