

rains during the last four-five months in various parts of the country;

(b) the extent to which it has affected the crops and estimated loss of crops as a result thereof in each State; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to provide relief to the farmers?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir. Rain-fall has been generally deficient or scanty, as compared to normal, over major part of the country during the North-east monsoon period October-December, 1984 and the winter season January-February, 1985.

(b) Insufficient winter rains have affected the crops in some States. However, the rabi crops are still to be harvested and as such at this stage it is not possible to indicate the extent of estimated loss of crops.

(c) The crop-weather situation is constantly under review and availability of electricity and agricultural inputs is being monitored in consultation with the State Government.

#### **Enactment of Marine Regulation Laws**

**937. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Fishermen's forum of India has recently represented to Government for enactment of Marine Regulation Laws;

(b) if so, the details of the memorandum presented; and

(c) reaction of Government thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient details are:

- (i) Enactment of Marine Fishing Regulation Acts by Coastal States.

(ii) Assessment of fish resources in the country by a team of scientists.

(iii) Banning of purse-seiners in territorial waters.

(iv) Production of inboard and outboard engines and their spare parts in the public sector and establishment of training centres in this regard.

(v) Availability of inboard and outboard engines and their spare parts free of taxes and excise duty. Availability of sufficient quota of kerosene to fishermen.

(vi) Joint ventures for exploitation of deep sea fish resources.

(vii) Restriction of trawling and purse-seining during night and during spawning season.

(viii) Establishment of Fishermen's Welfare Corporation in all the coastal States.

(ix) To develop aquaculture both in freshwater and coastal waters.

(c) The memorandum received recently is under examination.

#### **Grapes Cultivation in Drought Prone Areas**

**938. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is considerable scope for grape cultivation, particularly in drought prone areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether grape cultivation is being extended to benefit large number of farmers;

(c) whether there are any constraints in further extending grape cultivation; and