

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and steps proposed to be taken to boost production; and

(d) whether the composition of harvest and its regional distribution are also unsatisfactory ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) The Final estimates of production of foodgrains during 1985-86 have not yet been received from all the States. However, on the basis of reports received so far, the production is currently assessed at around 148 million tonnes, which is higher than the production of 146.2 million tonnes in 1984-85, but lower than the peak production of 152.4 million tonnes in 1983-84;

(c) Failure of monsoon in Kharif 1985 in a number of States was primarily the reason for shortfall in production in 1985-86, as compared to 1983-84. Several crop oriented programmes have been initiated by the Government of India and the State Governments to boost the foodgrains production in the country. The measures include input and extension support besides financial assistance provided on selected crops in selected areas. The farmers are also being assured of remunerative prices for their produce as a measure to boost the production.

(d) In view of variations in agro-climatic conditions and natural endowments, some regional disparities and imbalances in composition of crop output are bound to exist. However, Government have been following appropriate pricing policies and extension measures to ensure a balanced regional cropping pattern in the country.

#### National Watershed Development Programme

390. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESHWARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Centrally Sponsored scheme for integrated development of

agriculture in rainfed areas has yielded the expected results:

(b) whether Government have decided to spend Rs. 120 crores on the national watershed development programme for rainfed agriculture in the next four years ending 1989;

(c) whether Government would examine the factors responsible for the past failures and make appropriate changes to avoid huge wastage in the expenditure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) and (d) Based on the past experiences of dryland development programmes, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture has been formulated. Through this scheme the appropriate technology available and suitable for different dryland areas will be popularised. The main features of the Scheme are (i) Land and moisture management for cropping system introduction including dryland horticulture, fodder production and farm forestry; (ii) contingency seed stocking and supply of seedlings and grass seed/slips; (iii) training; (iv) adaptive research activity; (v) provision of surveying equipment and fabrication of new tools; and (vi) preparation of field manuals, etc.

#### [Translation]

#### Introduction of gradation scheme for regional news bulletins

391. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a gradation scheme for regional news bulletins of A.I.R. stations located in capitals of various States has been introduced; and