

### Production of Kharif crops

306. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent rains in some parts of the drought affected States are likely to improve the prospects of Kharif crops ;

(b) if so, to what extent they have proved useful ;

(c) whether drinking water and food supply was augmented due to these late rains ; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Kharif crop has been affected ?

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

(b) The recent rains received in the second fortnight of October, 1987 proved useful in reducing moisture stress to the long duration/late planted kharif crops. They have also been useful in field preparation and sowings of rabi crops.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) With the recent rains, the standing crops have been benefitted. However, it is too early to arrive at the actual effect of these late rains.

### Fodder banks

307. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been finalised for the establishment of fodder banks by the ICAR ;

(b) if so, the cost involved under the scheme ; and

(c) whether the proposal has received favour of fodder surplus States where the fodder banks would be established ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Import of pulses by NAFED

308. SHRI V. SHOBHANADREESWARA-RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation has sought permission to import pulses to overcome shortage of production of pulses due to drought ;

(b) if so, the quantum of various pulses proposed to be imported ;

(c) the likely time by which the pulses will reach the country ; and

(d) whether Government propose to announce a remunerative prices for pulses to encourage more production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) has been advised to import about one lakh tonnes of pulses as a measure to meet the shortfall in availability of pulses arising out of the drought in the country.

(b) and (c) NAFED has finalised contracts for import of around 20,000 MTs of pulses consisting of Urad, lentils and Dunpeas. The first consignment of 2,000 MTs. of pulses is expected to arrive by mid November, 1987.

(d) It is the declared policy of the Government to fix and announce remunerative minimum support prices for various major agricultural commodities including pulses as a measure to encourage more production. Accordingly, procurement/minimum support prices of identified agricultural commodities are notified regularly. Prices of Kharif pulses for 1987-88 marketing season have already been announced.