

pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of rabi crops during 1989 and how does it compare with 1988;

(b) the steps taken for boosting Kharif crops; and

(c) whether targets fixed for foodgrains production for the Seventh Plan are likely to be achieved and whether there will be surplus stock in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The final estimates of production of rabi crops are yet to be received from the States. According to present assessment, production of Rabi foodgrain crops during 1988-89 is expected to be in the range of 71.5 to 74.0 million tonnes as compared to 64.5 million tonnes in 1987-88. The production of Rabi oilseed during 1988-89 is expected to be in the range of 6.0 to 6.5 million tonnes as compared to 6.1 million tonnes last year.

(b) The steps taken for increasing production during Kharif 1988-89 are as below:—

(i) Special Foodgrains Production Programme in 14 Selected States;

(ii) Sanctioning of six lakh additional shallow tubewells/dugwells;

(iii) Opening of additional retail outlets to give boost to fertiliser consumption;

(iv) Marketing and price support operations;

(v) Strengthening of pest surveillance; and

(vi) Timely availability of credit.

(c) If the rainfall and weather conditions remain favourable in the terminal year of the Seventh Plan, the targets fixed for foodgrains production are likely to be achieved. Plan targets generally match with the demand and supply.

Crop Insurance scheme

1257. SHRI V. TULSIRAM:
SHRI BALASAHEB
VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Crop Insurance Scheme in the country has been successful;

(b) if not, the states where this scheme has failed;

(c) the State-wise amount of insurance payable/out standing to the farmers in respect of their crops for the year 1988-89; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for early settlement of their claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV)

(a) The Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) introduced in the country with effect from 1-4-1985 has been successful. It has provided financial support to the farmers and restored their credit eligibility in the event of a crop loss/failure as a result of various natural

calamities. Besides the CCIS has also helped in increasing the production of food-grains, pulses and oilseeds.

(b) The CCIS has not failed in any State.

(c) The State-wise details of the amount of the indemnity claims payable to the farmers for the insured crops for 1988-89 are not yet available.

(d) For early settlement of the indemnity claims under the CCIS it has been prescribed that the State Government would conduct requisite number of crop cutting experiments in the notified areas for the insured crops and submit to the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) the yield data worked out on the basis of such experiments within a period of four months of the end of every season. Thereafter, the GIC within two months of the receipt of the yield data is required to calculate the quantum of the indemnity claims that are payable to the concerned farmers in every State and furnish to the Government the details of such claims for approval.

New sponge iron project in A.P.

1258. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have approved a new sponge iron project in the public sector in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of fisheries in Andhra Pradesh

1259. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a research project for marine fisheries at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of seeds

1260. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether special efforts were made by Government to develop and improve varieties of seeds and supply them to the cultivators;

(b) if so, the details of efforts made in this direction;

(c) the details of the success achieved as a result of these efforts; and

(d) the extent of success achieved so far by Government to acquaint farmers with improved methods of cultivation and utilisation of improved varieties of seeds evolved by farm scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of improved varieties of