

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The draft of the National Mineral Policy for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals is under the consideration of the Government at present.

Agricultural Production

2454. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether South-West monsoon has started very well and there are hopes of good agricultural season for the second year in succession; and

(b) if so, to what extent the monsoon has helped in achieving the target of agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b). The South-West monsoon set over Kerala on 3rd June, 1989 and covered the entire country by 2nd July. The onset of monsoon this year was near normal in most part of the country. The rainfall during June, 1989 has been quite good and well-distributed both in time and space. In the month of July also most parts of the country received good rainfall except in some areas in North-west India. Cumulatively, the rainfall for the period June 1, to July 26, 1989, is excess/or normal in 28 out of 35 meteorological sub-divisions and 69 percent of the districts, as against 34 meteorological sub-divisions and 86 percent of the districts having normal/or excess rains during the same period in 1988. compar-

tively, this year's monsoon rainfall is better than that of any other year after 1981 except that of 1988.

So far, the well-distributed South-west monsoon during the current year have raised hopes of a good agricultural year. If the monsoon maintains normal rainfall activity over the country during the rest of the season, the country would have another bumper crop year in 1989-90 second in succession.

Foodgrain Production Target

2455. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target of foodgrains production during 1989-90 is proposed to be raised from 175 million tonnes fixed earlier;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to achieve the revised target; and

(c) to what extent the target has been achieved, uptill now?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Details in this regard are being worked out.

(c) It is too early to estimate the production for 1989-90 even the first crop season Kharif, is yet half way through. However, the level of foodgrains production achieved during 1988-89 is estimated to be about 172 million tonnes against the target of 166.57 million tonnes fixed for the year.

Educational Programmes for SC/STs

2458. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: