Decline in growth of soyabean in M.P.

*298. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for decline in growth of soyabean in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether ICAR has taken up any study in this regard in general, and worm affected crop in particular;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to study the matter in depth; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Soyabean is relatively new crop to India. In 1985 the areas of soyabean was about 1.34 mha which increased to 6.3 mha in 1998. Madhya Pradesh is the leading State of India for soyabean cultivation covering about 4.5 mha annually. In the initial years the growth rate of area, production and productivity was very high. However, the area of soyabean in Madhya Pradesh is under the process of stabilization which ranged between 4.46 mha in 1997 to 4.47 mha in the year 2000-01. The productivity which was 764kg/ha in 1985 has reached 1100 kg/ha in 1999-2000 which is a positive growth. However, there has been decline in production in the last two years because of unfavourable growing conditions in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Yes Sir, the National Research Centre on Soyabean, Indore and All India Coordinated Research Project on Soyabean under ICAR have taken up studies to find out the reasons for low productivity of soyabean in general and worm affected areas in particular. Since soyabean is grown as rainfed kharif crop, adverse weather conditions affect the crop drastically. Among the major factors responsible for low productivity are non-availability of good quality seed, cultivation under rainfed conditions and slow adoption of improved production technologies. In certain areas the crop is also affected by endemic diseases like rust (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra) and insect pests like tobacoo caterpillar (Rajasthan). However, ICAR has developed rust tolerant varieties and integrated pest management practices for the control of important pests of soyabean.

(c) and (d) Question do not arise.