

Production of pulses

3067. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in 1998-99, the country's pulse production peaked at 14.91 million tonnes and ever since the pulse production had never caught up with the population growth at an average of 1.3 per cent to 1.5 per cent per annum;

(b) whether despite rise in prices on average annual basis during this period by 6.3 per cent for Chana, 6.1 per cent for Arhar, 6.5 per cent for Moong and 8.6 per cent for Urad, no corresponding crop migration from cereals to pulses had taken place;

(c) whether it would be futile to attempt bringing more acreage under pulses; and

(d) if so, whether Government would focus on improving productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) Yes, Sir. The production of pulses in the country has peaked at 14.91 million tones during 1998-99 and 2003-04.

(b) The area coverage under pulses in the country during 1998-99 was 23.50 lakh hectares. Thereafter, the area under pulses has remained lower except during 2007-08 when it was marginally higher at 23.63 lakh hectares.

(c) and (d) There is scope for expansion of pulse cultivation in the country. As per estimates, more than 25 lakh hectare can be brought additionally under pulses cultivation. This includes use of rice-fallow, intercropping, catch cropping etc. Indian Council of Agricultural Research is implementing a programme to improve the productivity through development of hybrids in pegenopea and high yielding varieties in different pulse crops having inbuilt resistance to different biotic stresses and response to nutrients and irrigation. The package technology with improved varieties is being demonstrated for enhancement of productivity and adoption by the farmers.

Maritime Zones of India Act, 1976

3068. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maritime Zones of India Act, 1976 stipulates the distance of 12 nautical miles from the coast under the compete authority of State concerned;

(b) whether there is any proposal to amend the clause;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The "The Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and other Maritime Zones Act, 1976" defines the boundaries of territorial waters and