Growing of alternate crop to maintain eco system

2960. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has asked States like Chhattisgarh and North East to grow paddy and asked the paddy producing States like Punjab and some other States in South to grow pulses and maize to maintain the eco system;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has also offered special grant to encourage these States to implement the scheme;
- (d) whether Government has also provided a via alternative of paddy to the farmers and a market for other crops; and
 - (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (e) In order to intensively promote paddy cultivation in its natural ecology, Government of India is laying emphasis on agriculture development of seven States of eastern region including Chhattisgarh where a special programme Bringing Green revolution in Eastern India (BGREI)-a sub scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was launched in 2010-11. The programme is aimed at development of rice based cropping system in the eastern region which would as a consequence reduce burden of over exploitation of natural resources in

north western States like Punjab. Under National Food security Mission, special emphasis is given to grow pulses in summer season rice-wheat cropping system of Punjab.

The higher Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of pulses and oilseeds crops as compared to rice and other cereals is announced well in advance in the growing season to promote the cultivation of these crops. Government is also providing adequate attention for creating rural markets and storage capacity to realize adequate price of the produce.

Creation of additional cold storage capacity

2961. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the requirement and availability of cold-storage capacity, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government proposes to set up a National Centre for Cold Chain Development to monitor the creation of additional storage for price-sensitive products mainly of a perishable nature; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) According to a study done by National Spot Exchange (NSE) in 2010, on the basis of peak season production and highest arrival/harvesting of storable fruits and vegetables in a month, cold storage capacity of 23.51 million MT was available against the requirement of 61.13 million MT to store perishables. The cold storage capacity as on 31.03.2012 has been estimated at 29.71 million MT. The State-wise availability of cold storage capacity is given in Statement (See below).

- (b) and (c) The Government has set up a National Centre for Cold Chain Development (NCCD) as an autonomous body which has been registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act 1860. The main objectives of NCCD are:
 - (i) To recommend standards and protocols for cold chain infrastructure/building including post harvest management so as to harmonize with international standards and best practices and suggest mechanism for bench marking and certification of infrastructure/building, process and services provided by cold chain industry.
 - (ii) To undertake and coordinate Research and Development (R&D) work required I development of cold chain industry consultation with stakeholders.
 - (iii) To undertake and coordinate the task Human Resource Development (HRD)21 capacity building. It may also conduct house training, short-term/long (ours' relevant for cold chain development.