

Shortfall in Kharif crops due to delayed monsoon

163. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the delayed monsoon is all set to adversely affect the Kharif crop output this year;

(b) if so, the details of Kharif rice, pulses and coarse cereals output; and

(c) the concrete steps Government is taking to make up Kharif shortfall of these produces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per available estimates (First Advance Estimates, 2012-13), Kharif food grain production for 2012-13 is 117.18 million tonnes which is 12.76 million tonnes less compared to that of 2011-12.

(c) Steps have been taken for enhancing coverage and productivity of rabi crops through initiatives like, early sowing, extending the enhanced ceiling on seed subsidy for rabi crops, fast tracking of releases under the schemes/programmes etc. Further to compensate the losses of kharif pulses production, a programme on Additional Area Coverage of Pulses during Rabi/Summer 2012-13 has been sanctioned with an allocation of Rs.100.00 crore. It is reported that as on 16.11.2012, the Rabi coverage is 19.58 million hectare which is about 0.9 million hectare more compared to the normal crop coverage during the corresponding period.

Minimum Support Price for Palm oil

164. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representations from State Governments with regard to announcement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Palm oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of MSP they have sought;

(d) whether any action has been taken on such representations; and