

**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

(e) the stand of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (e) Government of Andhra Pradesh had earlier requested for including oil palm in the list of crops identified for announcing Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Under the MSP Scheme those commodities are covered which are mostly items of mass consumption of all India nature with fairly long shelf life and/or necessary for food/nutrition security.

Since oil palm is a perishable commodity, it is not covered under MSP. However, it is covered under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), which is implemented by Ministry of Agriculture on the request of State Governments, for procurement of perishable and horticultural commodities in the event of fall in market prices. The above position has been communicated to Government of Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Development of dairy sector**

165. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the plan of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to generate a credit flow of about ₹ 400 crore for the next three years to enhance the production and efficiency of dairy farming in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details of important elements of this scheme; and

(c) the other steps Government proposes to take to improve the dairy sector in Punjab and at the national level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) NABARD has prepared an Area Development Scheme on Dairy Development *i.e.* "Dairy Development thorough Improved Technique" for generating credit flow of Rs. 303.90 crores in Ludhiana and Rupnagar Districts of Punjab over a period of three years. The project has been prepared in consultation with concerned departments of the Government of Punjab and the State government is also an important partner in the implementation of the Plan.

(b) The important elements of Area Development Scheme on Dairy are: