Delay in onset of monsoon and its slow progress has caused delay in sowing of paddy, pulses, oilseeds and coarse cereals during Kharif-2014. However, the sowing window is available till early August and sowing coverage is expected to improve with further progress of monsoon.

Encouragement to horticulture and oilseeds crops

396. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to give preference to horticulture and oilseeds crops over other crops in the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to encourage farmers for the above crops by giving better sale price for these crops;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan of the Central Government to encourage horticulture and oilseeds crops in Odisha under various Central Plans to improve the economy of this backward region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In order to provide better price incentive and to increase production, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is mandated to recommend the price policy for 23 commodities which include oilseeds also, under which Minimum Support Prices (MSP) are fixed for oilseeds.

(d) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched a Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) during the Twelfth Five Year Plan *w.e.f.* 2014-15 for the holistic development of horticulture in the country including Odisha. Under the scheme, provision exists for taking up production and productivity improvement programmes, post harvest management, marketing and human resource development. The DAC has also launched a National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) during the current year to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and oil palm. NMOOP is implemented in nineteen States including Odisha.

Warehouses under Grameen Bhandaran Yojana in West Bengal

397. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: