

memorandum seeking central assistance from National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF). Government of India has already constituted an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) to visit the State, conduct on spot assessment and recommend central assistance from NDRF.

(c) Government of India has allocated 3,75,133 tons of foodgrains per month to Maharashtra from February, 2014 onward as per entitlement of the State under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). On the basis of request received from the State, Government of India has also allocated additional 3,98,700 tons of foodgrains to Maharashtra for the beneficiaries who could not be covered under NFSA. No request has been received from Government of Maharashtra, so far, for additional allotment of foodgrains for drought relief during the current year.

Fall in production of wheat due to air pollution

2200.SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in a recent study, it has been stated that India's wheat production has fallen drastically since 2010 because of rise in air pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto along with the total quantity of wheat produced in 2010 and thereafter till 2014, year-wise;

(c) whether Government has conducted/proposes to conduct any study to ascertain the factual position in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to reduce the adverse impact of air pollution on crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (d) A model based study conducted by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune under the Ministry of Earth Sciences estimated that ground level ozone damaged 3.5 million tonnes of wheat, 2.1 million tonnes of rice, 0.17 million tonnes of cotton and 0.23 million tonnes of soyabean in the country during the year 2005.

The experiments conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have also shown that ozone pollution can potentially reduce crop yields. Besides, long

term use of waste water for irrigation can adversely affect crop yields on account of higher pest incidence and disturbance in plant metabolism due to heavy metal contents.

However, as a result of various Crop Development Schemes of Government of India being implemented through State Governments, production of most of the agricultural crops including wheat in the country during the recent years has been increasing. Details of production of wheat during 2010-11 onwards are as under:

Production of Wheat (Million Tonnes)			
2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14*
86.87	94.88	93.51	95.91

* 4th advance estimates.

(e) Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India has taken various measures to contain air pollution in cities which, *inter-alia*, includes supply of cleaner fuels as per Auto Fuel Policy, use of gaseous fuel for public transport in select cities, Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate System for in-use vehicles, stringent source-specific emission standards and their compliance, use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants, strengthening public transport system, expansion of metro train system in select cities, implementation of revised emission norms for gensets, etc.

Further, in order to curb crop residue burning which causes air pollution, the Government of India has finalized National Policy for Management of Crop Residues (NPMCR)-2014. The Policy envisages adoption of technical measures including diversified uses of crop residue, capacity building and training along with formulation of suitable law/legislation. The above Policy also envisages extending central financial assistance for various interventions proposed by States under the ongoing Schemes/ Programmes/Missions of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

Data for production of crops

2201. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the fact that Government prepares various financial policies based on data for production of various crops and agricultural commodities in the country, the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments, contemplates to take any steps to obtain more accurate data in this regard;