

(b) Total area under gram during the current year is estimated at 83.58 lakh hectares which is lower by 15.8% as compared to estimated gram area of 99.27 lakh hectares during 2013-14.

(c) With a marginal decline of 1.50 lakh hectares over the last year's area of 304.73 lakh hectares, total area under wheat during 2014-15 is estimated 303.23 lakh hectares. However, as compared to total wheat area of 53.80 lakh hectares in the Madhya Pradesh during 2013-14, area under wheat in the State is estimated at 57.48 lakh hectares which is higher by 3.68 lakh hectares than the last year.

Big business houses venturing in fishing sector

491. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in recent past, several big Indian business houses have ventured in fishing sector by leasing in big foreign vessels employing international crew, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether these vessels are allowed mid-sea export without landing their catches on the shore and also that there is huge loss of the export based revenue earned by Government;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the mechanism existing with Government to record the quantity of fish they take from Indian waters; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent small fishermen getting affected by such big players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE :
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no policy which permits foreign vessels to fish in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Report on marine fisheries sector

492. DR. T. N. SEEMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received several representations against the Dr. B. Meena Kumari Commission report on marine fisheries sector stating that it would adversely affect the livelihood of fishermen, if so, details thereof and the response of Government thereto;