

under PMKSY in Maharashtra. A tentative allocation of ₹ 250 crore has been made during 2016-17 for promoting drip and sprinkler irrigation in Maharashtra.

(b) The following measures have been taken to deal with the situation:

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been launched with the objective of extending the coverage of irrigation in a focused manner. Under PMKSY focus has been given for: Creation of new water sources; Repair, restoration and renovation of defunct water sources; Construction of water harvesting structures, secondary and micro storage, ground water development and enhancing potentials of traditional water bodies at village level. During 2015-16, ₹ 66985.355 lakh has been released to Govt. of Maharashtra under this scheme.
- Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 614 districts including 34 districts of Maharashtra for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of any extreme climatic events.
- In order to protect farmers against crop failure due to natural calamities, pests and diseases, weather conditions, Government of India recently introduced the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for implementation from Kharif 2016.

Shortfall in production of wheat

*220. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the projected wheat production this year will be less than normal necessitating import of wheat, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the quantity of wheat produced in the years 2014 and 2015 and the quantity procured by FCI and State agencies; and
- (c) the steps proposed by Government to address the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the Third Advance Estimates released on 9th May, 2016, total production of wheat in the country during 2015-16 is estimated at 94.04 million tonnes against the normal (previous five years average) production of 91.53 million

tonnes. The estimated production of wheat in the country during 2013-14 and 2014-15 stands at 95.85 million tonnes and 86.53 million tonnes respectively.

The details of quantity of wheat procured by the Food Cooperation of India (FCI) and the State Agencies during the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2014-15 and RMS 2015-16 are as under:

Agencies	(lakh tonnes)	
	Quantity of Wheat Procured during RMS	
	2014-15	2015-16
FCI	35.34	29.84
State Agencies	244.89	251.04
Total	280.23	280.88

(c) In order to increase production of wheat in the country, the Government of India is implementing through State Governments, several Crop Development Schemes/ Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Wheat, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) etc.

To achieve higher productivity of various agricultural crops including wheat, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting basic and strategic research relating to crop improvement, production and protection technologies suitable for different situations including development of location-specific varieties/hybrids and technologies.

Further, to ensure remunerative price to farmers, the Government has been increasing the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various agricultural crops including wheat. The MSP of wheat has been increased from ₹1450/- per quintal for RMS: 2014-15 to ₹1525/- per quintal for RMS 2015-16. The farmers are, however, free to sell their produce to Government agencies or in the open market, whichever is beneficial to them.

Reducing the gender digital divide in accessing ICT services

*221. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that very less number of women, as compared to men, have access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services in the country;