

(b) India has imported pulses of ₹ 17063 crore (45.8 lakh tonns in quantity) in the year 2014-15 and of ₹ 25619 crore (58.0 lakh tonns in quantity) in the year 2015-16 respectively. At the end of July 2016, the buffer stock of pulses was 69 thousand tonns.

Increasing the income of farmers

2163. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the article captioned "A thought for Food," published in an English daily on 18 July, 2016;

(b) whether it is a fact that the major roadblocks for increasing income of farmers are the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act and the Essential Commodities Act;

(c) if so, what way Government will find solutions to allow farmers to sell directly to the buyers without intermediaries;

(d) whether interim action or steps have been proposed in this regard; and

(e) the steps proposed to help farmers get the full benefits of market demand for their crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Essential Commodities Act empowers the Central and State Governments to regulate trade, commerce, production, supply and distribution of essential commodities. The level of implementation depends on the orders issued by the Central and State Government. In order to increase farmers' income through removing the restrictive provisions and monopolistic approach of States' Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts, the Government has asked the States to reform their Acts. The reform agenda of the Government includes, *inter alia*, direct purchase of agricultural produce from farmers' at their farm gate, contract farming and setting up of farmer-consumer market, wherein farmer can sell their produce directly to the consumers without the involvement of intermediaries. Further, to integrate the farmers with buyers, the Government has launched National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) on 14th April, 2016. Under e-NAM, farmers will be able to sell their well assayed produce on-line to the buyers of their choice.

(e) The e-NAM enables the farmers to have access with more number of markets and buyers, thus, benefiting them with existing competition and demand among the markets and buyers.