Production of pulses in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

2960. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up any plan to boost the production of pulses in various States, particularly Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(b) whether the plan comprises any incentives including promise of a remunerative MSP, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is being implemented in 29 States of country including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Under NFSM, assistance is being provided to the farmers for demonstrations, seed distribution, micro-nutrients, soil ameliorants, plant protection chemicals, bio-fertilizers, farm machinery and implements, irrigation devices, training etc.

From 2016-17, new initiatives for pulses like subsidy on production of seed, distribution of seed minikits of newer varieties, technology demonstrations through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), strengthening of seed production programme, creation of seed hubs etc. are being taken.

(b) Government has increased Minimum Support Price (MSP) per quintal for tur (arhar) from ₹4625 to ₹5050, moong from ₹ 4850 to ₹5225 and for urad from ₹4625 to ₹5000 for year 2016-17.

Operational land holdings in the country

2961. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) total number of operational land holdings in the country, size-wise, category-wise, *e.g.* all categories SC, ST and OBCs, State-wise;

(b) total land area of operational holdings in the country, size-wise, category-wise *e.g.* all categories SC, ST and OBCs, State-wise;

(c) total land area under irrigation, category-wise, *e.g.* all categories SC, ST and OBCs, State-wise;

(d) total number of farmers in the country, category-wise, *e.g.* all categories SC, ST and OBCs, State-wise; and

(e) total number of landless farmers in the country, category-wise, *e.g.* all categories SC, ST and OBCs and State-wise?