

**Production of Kharif crops**

570. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any report on good production of kharif crops this year as compared to last year;
- (b) if so, production report for this year, sector-wise; and
- (c) the action proposal of Government to cope up with negative situation, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (c) First Advance Estimates of production (covering only Kharif crops) are normally released in September and, therefore, it is too early to have firm assessment of production of Kharif crops for the current year. However, as per latest reports based on eye assessment of area coverage by State Agriculture Departments, total area coverage under most of Kharif crops during the current year *i.e.* 2016-17 (as on 15.07.2016) has been higher than the area coverage during the corresponding period of last year. At all India level, total area sown under Kharif crops during 2016-17 (as on 15.7.2016) has been higher by 11.38 lakh hectares as compared to Kharif area coverage during the same period of last year.

In view of better progress of sowing of Kharif crops, if rainfall conditions during the remaining period of current monsoon season continues to be favourable as per prediction of India Meteorological Department, this year's production scenario of Kharif crops should be better than the last year.

**Compulsory licence and royalty on sale price of seeds**

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

- (a) whether Government has withdrawn the notification calling GM developers to compulsorily license their proprietary traits on demand;
- (b) whether Government has also rolled back the decision not to charge any royalty exceeding 10 per cent of the maximum sale price of seeds;
- (c) the key features of Licensing and Formats for GM Technology Agreement Guidelines; and
- (d) by when does Government propose to put out a formal confirmation on compulsory licence and royalty on sale price?