

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- (a) whether Government has withdrawn the notification calling GM developers to compulsorily license their proprietary traits on demand;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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has withdrawn on 24th May, 2016 the Notification of Licensing and Formats for GM Technology Agreement Guidelines.

(c) Key features of the Licensing and Formats for GM Technology Agreement Guidelines include Fair, Reasonable and Non-Discriminatory (FRAND) allocation, a cap on maximum trait value, no right to refuse grant of license to any eligible seed company fulfilling the eligibility criteria, in case of loss of efficacy trait value to be zero, no restrictive condition in the agreement for alternative GM technology, etc.

(d) These draft Licensing Guidelines and Format for GM Technology Agreement have been uploaded on the website of the Department. Decision on these draft Licensing guidelines will be taken after receiving comments/suggestions from all stakeholders after completion of 90 days.

Policy to improve agriculture sector

†572. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any special policy to improve the worsened situation of agriculture and to promote agriculture sector through achievement of white and blue revolutions and fast pace of horticulture; and

(b) whether any steps are to be taken to improve mandi system and to improve dilapidated expansion system of basic infrastructure under this policy to provide fair prices to farmers for their produces, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Government of India is already running several schemes for the upliftment of agriculture and its allied sectors in the country. New Schemes have also been introduced in the recent past such as National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Soil Health Card (SHC), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Vikas Yojana (PMKSY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) etc.

In so far as white revolution is concerned, the Government is implementing the following schemes in which assistance is provided for development of dairying sector-(i) National Dairy Plan (Phase-I); (ii) National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development; (iii) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme; and (iv) Supporting State Cooperative Dairy Federations.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.