

Import of pulses from Mozambique

1361. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to increase production of pulses, Government has earmarked ₹ 1100 crore in 2016-17 towards its share of a total of ₹ 1700 crore allocated under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) scheme;

(b) whether Government has also firmed up plans to import around 1 lakh tonnes of Tur and other pulses from Mozambique in the current year 2016-17 to meet the shortfall in domestic production;

(c) whether such imports from Mozambique will be through Government to Government channels or through private traders; and

(d) whether any MoU has been signed with Mozambique in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government of India has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Republic of Mozambique and designated Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) Limited as agency for import of pulses from Mozambique.

Protection of arecanut growing farmers

1362. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of arecanut in the country during last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether crash in the arecanut price has come to the notice of Government;

(c) if so, the reasons for the crash in price; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard arecanut growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The details of the production of arecanut in the country during the last three years and current year, State/UT wise are given in the Statement (*See below*).