

Inland Container Depot at ICP, Attari, Amritsar

*36. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is in the process of opening an Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Integrated Check Post (ICP), Attari, Amritsar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) ICDs are essentially for facilitating import/export traffic in containers. Attari is at the Indo-Pak border and is already having an Integrated Check Post of The Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) for facilitating border trade with Pakistan. However, specific to border trade with Pakistan in Containers, at present, there is no agreement with Pakistan Railways for movement of Containers by Rail between the two countries. Therefore, the question of having an Inland Container Depot at Attari, Amritsar does not arise for the present.

Increasing production of pulses

*37. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has projected to raise the production of pulses by 4 million tonnes by 2016-17, over and above the highest production during Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether there is a proportionate trend of increase in production of pulses irrespective of inhospitable climatic conditions; and

(c) the additional steps taken by Government to achieve the target fixed?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was launched in 2007-08 with the objective to increase pulses production by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan. Consequently, the pulse production increased from 14.20 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 17.09 million tonnes by 2011-12, *i.e.* 2.89 million tonnes. NFSM is continued in Twelfth Plan with new target of 4 million tonnes of pulse production. The pulse production increased upto 19.25 million tonnes in the year 2013-14. However, the pulse production came down to 17.15 and 16.47 million tonnes in the year 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively. The decline in pulse production is due to continuous drought in Kharif seasons of two years and moisture stress at sowing time as well as occurrence of hailstorm and unseasonal rains at maturity stage of Rabi pulses. The production of Kharif pulses in 2016-17 is expected about