

Failure of Rabi groundnut crop in Andhra Pradesh

4023. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Rabi groundnut crop has failed in Andhra Pradesh with farmers suffering heavy losses; and

(b) whether Government would consider increasing the MSP for groundnut to compensate the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) No, Sir. Area, Production and Yield (APY) of Rabi groundnut has increased in Andhra Pradesh during 2016-17 as compared to 2015-16. The year-wise APY during 2015-16 and 2016-17 in the State is given below:—

Year	Area (‘000 ha.)	Production (‘000 tonnes)	Yield (Kg./ha.)
2015-16	93.0	203.0	2183
2016-17*	94.0	208.0	2213

*2nd Advance Estimates of DES.

(b) Government has increased Minimum Support Price (MSP) of groundnut from ₹ 4030/- per quintal for 2015-16 to ₹ 4220/- per quintal, including a bonus of ₹ 100/- per quintal for 2016-17 season. The recommendation of MSP of groundnut for the year 2017-18 is under process in the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and would be submitted to the Government in due course of time.

Cooperation with South American countries in agriculture sector

4024. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to cooperate closely with South American countries for improving the agriculture sector;

(b) whether a delegation from some of the South American countries visited the country recently for cooperation, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how South American countries are more advanced in agriculture technology than India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) India had signed MoUs