

and monthly drought assessment reports (June to October) to concerned States and national level Government agencies.

The Control Room of the DAC & FW collects information on rainfall, reservoir position and sowing status etc. to monitor drought situation and liaises with the Central Ministries/Department and the States. In case of severe drought situation in the country, the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary also reviews the situation and takes necessary decisions to mitigate the drought situation.

#### **Record production of foodgrains**

3361. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country is heading for an all-time record in foodgrains production this year;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to build a substantial buffer stock of foodgrains to meet the challenges in the future; and
- (c) the details of procurement process to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) As per Second Advance Estimates for 2016-17, total foodgrain production in the country is estimated at 271.98 million tonnes which is higher by 6.94 million tonnes than the previous record production of foodgrain of 265.04 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14. The current year's estimated foodgrain production is higher by 20.41 million tonnes than the last year.

(b) The Government has sufficient stock of 298.36 lakh tonnes (as on 01.03.2017) of rice and wheat in the Central Pool Stock as against the Buffer Norms of 210.40 lakh tonnes as on 1st April.

(c) The Central Government extends price support for the purchase of foodgrains through Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government Agencies. Foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications are bought by public procurement agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Central Government. The farmers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State Agencies at MSP or in the open market, whichever is advantageous to them. Government of India (GOI) declares MSP for each season to incentivize farmers and prevent distress sale.