

Affiliation of private agriculture college with ICAR

3364. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private B.Sc. agriculture college must be affiliated with ICAR; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) No, Sir. However, accreditation is required to ensure quality education.

(b) Does not arise in view of 'a' above.

Decline in area covered under rice cultivation

3365. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area covered under cultivation of rice crop in this year has come down compared to the last year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the area covered under rice in Kharif season during last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for a decrease in the area covered under rice, particularly with reference to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes Sir. As per Second Advance Estimates for 2016-17, the area covered under cultivation of rice crop in the country has been estimated at 427.44 lakh hectare as against 434.99 lakh hectare in 2015-16.

(b) State-wise details of area covered under rice in Kharif season during last three years in the country are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) The reasons for decline in area coverage of rice during 2015-16 in Andhra Pradesh is attributed to inadequate rainfall and non-availability of water in projects particularly under Krishna River Basin. However, area coverage of rice has increased during 2016-17 Kharif season as compared to last year. The improvement in Kharif rice area has occurred mainly due to diversion of Godavari water to Krishna basin through Pattiseema Project.