

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.

Statement*Details of State-wise area of Kharif Rice during 2013-14 to 2015-16*

States	Area ('000 Hectare)		
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1566.2	1635.0	1399.0
Arunachal Pradesh	132.0	127.2	128.3
Assam	2050.0	2078.9	2080.0
Bihar	3038.6	3181.1	3151.0
Chhattisgarh	3802.1	3808.5	3816.0
Goa	28.3	27.8	27.7
Gujarat	757.0	755.0	741.0
Haryana	1228.0	1287.0	1354.0
Himachal Pradesh	74.4	72.5	73.7
Jammu and Kashmir	271.5	276.4	304.5
Jharkhand	1255.9	1502.2	1589.0
Karnataka	1035.0	1000.0	977.0
Kerala	152.7	153.0	150.8
Madhya Pradesh	1930.0	2153.0	2024.0
Maharashtra	1568.0	1508.0	1471.0
Manipur	27.8	29.5	42.0
Meghalaya	96.6	96.7	96.8
Mizoram	38.2	36.4	36.7
Nagaland	185.7	191.2	196.5
Odisha	3879.7	3865.0	3708.1
Punjab	2851.0	2894.0	2975.0
Rajasthan	145.6	167.8	182.9
Sikkim	11.2	11.0	10.7
Tamil Nadu	1578.4	1641.8	1829.4

1	2	3	4
Telangana	1084.8	920.0	749.0
Tripura	197.5	193.5	199.8
Uttar Pradesh	5955.0	5842.0	5837.0
Uttarakhand	239.9	247.9	250.3
West Bengal	4226.7	4086.0	4213.4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8.0	6.4	6.1
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	13.3	13.5	15.8
Delhi	6.0	6.0	6.0
Daman and Diu	2.0	1.9	1.8
Puducherry	12.1	12.7	12.3
ALL INDIA	39449.1	39829.0	39656.5

Fall in prices of pulses

3366. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of Tur (Arhar) and other pulses have nosedived recently in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh etc. which has adversely affected the producers, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) the remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take to protect the Interests of pulses producers of Maharashtra and other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Some reports indicate that prices of pulses including Tur in some of the mandis are ruling below Minimum Support Price (MSP). However, in most of the mandis prices are above the MSP. Details of State-wise month-end wholesale prices of pulses since January, 2017 are given in Statement (*See below*).

The Government offers to procure the crops at MSP. However, farmers are free to sell their produce to Government procurement agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them.