

Employment in agriculture sector

3385. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total population, in number and percentage, which is directly or indirectly employed in the agriculture in the country; and

(b) the total number of individuals, in percentage and number, affected by demonetisation, on account of losses in production, sales and non-payment of wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) As per the census conducted by the Registrar General of India for the year 2011, the total number of workers directly involved in agriculture stands at 263.1 million, accounting for 54.6 per cent of total working population of country. Out of the total number of agricultural workers, 54.9 per cent are labourers and rest are cultivators.

(b) The data on number of person affected by demonetisation is not available. However, the total food production as per the Second Advance Estimates for year 2016-17 as compared to that of 2015-16 is estimated to increase from 251.57 million tonnes to 271.98 million tonnes. The area under rabi crops for both foodgrains and oilseeds have also increased to 54.51 million hectare and 76.97 lakh hectare respectively during 2016-17.

Setting up of ICAR-CPCRI in Andhra Pradesh

3386. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Ministry to set up ICAR-CPCRI in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has also written a letter in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action the Ministry has taken so far on the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) ICAR has perused the matter and instructed the Director, CPCRI to take up the matter with the State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh *vide* letter F.No. HS/15-118/2015/