

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to make the selection examination of Agriculture Scientists more transparent and to select the deserving Scientists; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Production of wheat

2. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for wheat in the country will reach 140 million tonnes by 2050, according to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country has so far recorded huge growth in wheat production, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Sir, at 5.25 per cent growth rate in national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), it is estimated that the demand for wheat will reach 140 million tonnes by 2050. In case of high growth rate in national GDP (at 7 per cent), the demand for wheat may go up to 150 million tonnes by 2050.

(b) There has been a significant progress in wheat production in the country during past one decade (2006-07 to 2016-17). The production of wheat increased from 75.81 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 98.38 million tonnes in 2016-17 at a compound growth rate of 2.7 per cent per annum.

Post Harvest Losses

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India is one of the top countries for the losses of agricultural commodities during post harvesting period, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the effective and concrete measures Government has taken or proposes to take to substantially reduce losses of post harvesting agri commodities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) As per Report