

The Government also undertakes procurement of paddy and wheat at Minimum Support Price (MSP) through Food Corporation of India (FCI). In addition, procurement of oilseeds, pulses and cotton are undertaken by central agencies at MSP under Price Support Scheme (PSS) at the request of the concerned State Government which agrees to exempt the procured commodities from levy of mandi tax and assist central nodal agencies in logistic arrangements.

Government also implements the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agriculture and horticulture products, which are perishable in nature and are not covered under PSS on the request of States/ UT Governments. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.

(d) and (e) Agriculture being as a State subject, the State Governments are primarily responsible for the growth and development of agriculture sector and developing perspective plans of their respective States. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Schemes/ Programmes. The State Governments of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar have prepared their road maps for development of agriculture sector.

Decline in sown area of kharif crops

351. 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 net sown area has drastically come down this year kharif season compared to last year, particularly in respect of rice and pulses, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the name of States which have shown decline and the reasons for this decline; and

(c) whether this will impact the prices of rice and pulses during the next season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) The transplanting/sowing of Kharif crops will continue up to the month of August. It is too early to conclude reduction in area coverage under kharif crops during the current season. The sowing

of kharif crops has been reported in an area of 501.67 Lakh hectare as on 13.7.2018 as compared to 557.49 lakh hectare last year in corresponding period, which is less by 10.02%. The area sown under rice and pulses during the current kharif season as on 13.07.2018 and area covered last year in corresponding period is as below.

(Area in lakh ha.)

Crops	Kharif 2018	Kharif 2017	Difference
Rice	116.72	126.92	-10.20
Pulses	60.56	66.97	-6.41

(b) The State-wise area coverage during current Kharif season is given in Statement-I (*See* below). The sowing of kharif season picks up with the onset of monsoon and adequate rainfall for sowing of crops. Less area coverage in kharif 2018 is attributed to late receipt of rainfall mainly in the States of Gujarat and Rajasthan. As per IMD forecast, the monsoon will remain normal during the season. The sowing of crop is in progress.

(c) It is too early to assess the production of rice and pulses during Kharif and impact on prices.

Statement

State-wise area coverage during current kharif 2018

Area in Lakh ha.

Sl. No.	States	Area Sown		
		2018-19 (Current year)	2017-18 (Last year)	Difference
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Gujarat	23.33	42.83	-19.50
2.	Bihar	9.89	15.92	-6.03
3.	Odisha	11.80	17.09	-5.29
4.	Rajasthan	62.51	88.87	-26.36
5.	Jharkhand	3.52	4.32	-0.80
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.62	3.10	-0.48

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.84	2.03	-0.19
8.	Kerala	0.48	0.53	-0.05
9.	Assam	6.10	6.63	-0.53
10.	Punjab	29.72	32.20	-2.48
11.	Andhra Pradesh	8.36	8.98	-0.62
12.	Himachal Pradesh	3.47	3.72	-0.25
13.	Telangana	19.41	20.64	-1.23
14.	Haryana	20.00	20.47	-0.47
15.	Chhattisgarh	18.65	19.01	-0.36
16.	West Bengal	8.34	8.49	-0.15
17.	Uttar Pradesh	49.90	50.70	-0.80
18.	Maharashtra	93.81	93.55	0.26
19.	Uttarakhand	5.80	5.75	0.05
20.	Karnataka	34.91	33.90	1.01
21.	Madhya Pradesh	74.56	66.75	7.81
22.	Tamil Nadu	6.38	5.37	1.01
TOTAL		495.40	550.85	-55.45
ALL INDIA		501.67	557.49	-55.82

Development of micro irrigation

352. 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 Government has decided to earmark separate and dedicated funds for the development of micro irrigation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode is also allowed to use this fund by the States; and