

has been implementing National Food Security Mission- Oil Seeds, National Food Security Mission-Oil Palm. Production of oilseeds has increased from 275.11 lakh ton in 2014-15 to 313.08 lakh ton in 2017-18 (as per 4th Advance Estimate of Directorate of Economics and Statistics) .

Area under cultivation of paddy in Kerala

2585. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area under paddy cultivation in the State of Kerala is decreasing every year;

(b) if so, the area decreased during each of the last three years and the reasons for the decrease; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) The area under paddy/rice cultivation in the State of Kerala keeps fluctuating depending on farmer's preference, shift of area to other competing crops, agro-climatic conditions, inter-crop profitability, irrigation facilities etc. The details of area under paddy/rice cultivation in the state of Kerala during last three years are given as under:—

| Year | Area ('000 hectares) |
|----------|----------------------|
| 2015-16 | 196.9 |
| 2016-17 | 171.4 |
| 2017-18* | 189.1 |

* as per 4th Advance Estimate.

(c) In order to increase the area and production of foodgrain including paddy/ rice, Government implements various schemes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Soil Health Card (SHC), promotion of Neem Coated Urea, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, etc.

NFSM-Rice programme is implemented in 194 districts of 25 states of the country including Kerala for increasing the production and productivity of foodgrains through area expansion and productivity enhancement. Under the programme, assistance is provided to the farmers on cluster demonstrations, seed distribution, improved farm machineries/implements, efficient water application tools, plant protection chemicals/ bio-agents, micro-nutrients and soil ameliorants and cropping system based trainings to the farmers.