

Record production of foodgrains

1289. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has set a target of record 285.2 million tonne foodgrain production in the 2018-19 crop year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that country harvested a record 284.83 MT of foodgrain in the 2017-18 crop year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite patchy monsoon rains, Government is expecting higher production in current Kharif season; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) fixes target for the production of foodgrains in the country annually. The targets for the production of foodgrains has been fixed at 290.25 million tonnes for the 2018-19.

(b) The production of foodgrains in the country has been estimated at 284.83 million tonnes (4th Advance Estimates) for 2017-18, which is a record.

(c) and (d) As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the rainfall in the country was normal (-9%) during South-West monsoon season (June to September 2018).

The production of foodgrains in the country during Kharif 2018 has been estimated at 141.59 million tonnes (1st Advance Estimates) against 140.73 million tonnes (4th Advance Estimates) during kharif 2017, which is higher by 0.86 million tonnes.

Implementation of PM-AASHA Scheme

1290. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during last year or so, prices of most of the crops including pulses and oilseeds fell below the support prices announced by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the farmers continue to face rising indebtedness, lesser financial inclusion and lack of insurance; and