

since inception of the scheme in Jharkhand under both PMFBY is given in the following table:

Year/ Season	Enrolment of Farmers	Area Insured	Sum Insured	Gross Premium	Farmers Share in Gross Premium	Total Claims	Farmers Benefitted
	(in lakhs)	(in lakh ha.)		(₹ in crore)			(in lakhs)
2016-17	8.79	3.74	2002	272	40	31	0.61
2017-18	11.92	3.01	1514	217	29	45	1.38
Kharif 2018*	12.24	5.75	3202	389	45	*	*

\* Provisional. Claims in respect of all crops/areas are not reported.

All food and oilseed crops and commercial/horticultural crops can be notified under the scheme subject to availability of past yield data based on requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments and capacity of the States to conduct the requisite number of CCEs for each crop and insurance unit area. State Government is notifying Paddy and Maize during Kharif seasons and Bengal Gram, Mustard, Potato and Wheat during Rabi seasons in the State under PMFBY.

#### Low quality rails supplied by SAIL

\*299. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has revealed that the rails provided by Steel Authority of India (SAIL) to Railways are of lower quality and not suitable to run 25-tonne axle load wagons, dealing a huge blow to an ambitious plan of Railways to move 70 per cent of its freight traffic on higher axle load wagons by 2019-20;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for getting quality products for Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Presently, Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) of Indian Railways (IR) has stipulated stringent specifications for 60kg/ 880 Grade rails for Mail, Express trains upto

160kmph, for 20.32 tonne axle load freight trains upto 90kmph and for 22.9 tonne axle load freight trains upto 60kmph. Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has been regularly supplying these rails as per these specifications of Indian Railways and the rails supplied so far have been found to be of required quality and specification.

In view of the requirement of higher axle load, Indian Railways has recently formulated specifications for 60kg/1175HT rails suitable for 25 tonne axle load operation. These specifications have been shared with Ministry of Steel and SAIL and they have been requested to develop such rails.

#### **Challenges of drought**

\*300. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to tackle rain deficit problems the country is going to face within two months;
- (b) if so, the proposal of the Government therein;
- (c) the action proposed by Government to meet the challenges of drought this year and to safeguard the income of farmers of the country; and
- (d) the measures taken to ease the water crises and the proposal to rehabilitate and give relief to the farmers under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (c) As per second India Meteorological Department (IMD) Long Range Forecast, released on 31.05.2019, rainfall over the country as a whole for the 2019 South-West Monsoon Season (June to September) is likely to be NORMAL (96% to 104% of the Long Period Average). As on 16th June, 2019 the country wide rain deficit was 43%, as on 30th June, 2019 it was 33% and as on 15th July, 2019, rain deficit has reduced to 13%. The deficit gap is reducing and rainfall pattern is improving with the advance of monsoon.

To ward off adverse impact, if any, of an aberrant monsoon, advisories have been issued to all States/Union Territories before the onset of Monsoon 2019 season for reviewing the States' preparedness in managing any weather related contingency for mitigating the adverse impacts of an aberrant monsoon. They have been advised to