

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The availability of certified/quality seeds including native seeds in country during last three years and current Kharif-2019 season, as reported by States is as under:

| (Quantity in lakh quintals) | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Sl. No. | Year | Demand/Requirement | Availability/Production |
| 1. | 2016-17 | 353.49 | 380.29 |
| 2. | 2017-18 | 371.38 | 419.41 |
| 3. | 2018-19 | 353.54 | 398.88 |
| 4. | Kharif-2019 | 140.36 | 152.24 |

Sufficient quantities of certified/quality seeds were made available to the farmers by the seed producing agencies. In case of hybrids the higher yield is because of hybrid vigour not of specific application of fertilizer.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The National Gene Bank (NGB) has a Long Term Conservation Facility (at -20°C) and eight Medium Term Modules (at 4-8°C) including at Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resource (NBPGR), New Delhi and its 10 Regional Stations for conservation of plant genetic resources (PGR) for posterity and sustainable use. The germplasm holding in NGB as on March 31, 2019 is 4,40,651 accessions belonging to 1948 species which includes native land-races and traditional varieties and could be made available for use of farmers in limited quantities. In addition to this, Government, through the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) also supports conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources including famous collections in carrying out capacity building of Panchayats in such activities including conservation and use of native varieties.

Shortage of funds in MGNREGA

*374. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MGNREGA has provided jobs to twelve crore workers;

(b) whether MGNREGA has been suffering from a shortage of funds for the last seven years; and

(c) if so, the details of the funds allocated and utilised in the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) MGNREGS is demand driven wage employment programme. The total workers provided employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) during the last three financial years is as under:

| Financial Years | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total workers (Number in crore) | 7.67 | 7.59 | 7.78 |

(b) and (c) Fund release to States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed in making funds available keeping in view the demand for work. Central fund released and expenditure reported by States/UTs in Management Information System (MIS) under MGNREGS during the last five years indicates increasing trend. The details are given below:

| (₹ in crore) | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Sl. No. | Year | Fund released | Expenditure reported by States |
| 1. | 2014-15 | 32,977.42 | 35,712.28 |
| 2. | 2015-16 | 37,340.72 | 44,002.59 |
| 3. | 2016-17 | 48,219.05 | 58,062.92 |
| 4. | 2017-18 | 55,166.75 | 63,649.48 |
| 5. | 2018-19 | 61,829.55 | 66,728.19 |

* Includes State share

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

Revenue earned by railways from platform tickets, shops and advertisements on platforms

†*375. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by Government from the sale of platform tickets;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.