

follow a fixed pattern as these are dependent upon the States' meeting the requirements under the scheme guidelines.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details of releases to West Bengal under various heads during last three years are as under:-

(₹ in crores)				
Sl. No.	Particulars	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1.	Tax Devolution	49321.13	55775.72	48048.40
2.	Finance Commission Grants	5283.47	4189.11	4865.74
3.	Centrally Sponsored & Other releases	30473.87	34665.27	40288.31
4.	Loans & Advances	2025.09	1177.86	2017.04
TOTAL		87103.56	95807.96	95219.49

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Slowdown in rural India

208. SHRI M.V. SHREYAMS KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted reports that consumption in rural India has shown a slowdown during the last six Covid affected months in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that rural economy has been plagued by falling crop prices and declining incomes, resulting in a severe slump in demand; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) and (b) Since May, agriculture has been driving the revival of growth in the country. As per the Estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the First Quarter of April-June (Q1) of 2020-21 released by the National Statistical Office on 31st August 2020, the Gross Value Added (GVA) of only agriculture has shown a positive growth of 3.4 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2019, signaling relatively better prospects of consumption in rural India. Procurement of wheat from farmers by Government agencies touched an all-time record figure at 389.85 Lakh Metric

Tonnes (LMT) in 2020-21 surpassing the earlier record of 381.48 LMT achieved during 2012-13.

In line with the announcement made in Union Budget, 2018-19 to keep Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) at levels of one and half times of the cost of production, Government has increased the MSP for Kharif and Rabi crops for the marketing season 2020-21 over 2019-20. This price support through MSP will help safeguard rural income.

With the phased unlocking of the Indian economy since June 1, 2020, high frequency economic indicators including Kharif sowing, sales of small cars, two-wheelers, sports utility vehicles, fertilizers and registrations for commercial and agricultural tractors indicate growing convergence with previous year's activity levels. These developments are indicative of further strengthening of rural demand.

(c) To increase growth and consumption in the economy including rural India, government is implementing several measures under the Aatmnirbhar Bharat Abhiyan which *inter-alia* include Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, Additional Emergency Working Capital Funding for farmers through NABARD, concessional credit through Kisan Credit Cards, PM KISAN fund transfer, PM Fasal Bima Yojana claim payments, interest subvention for dairy cooperatives, liquidity support under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund to states, working capital support for agricultural procurement, free food grain supply to migrants, PM Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan, MGNREGA budgetary support and higher wage rates, MUDRA Shishu loan relief, PM SVANidhi, Agri-Infrastructure Fund for farm gate infrastructure, scheme for Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises (MFE), Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, National Animal Disease Control Programme, Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, Promotion of Herbal Cultivation and Beekeeping and extension of Operation Greens from Tomatoes, Onion and Potatoes (TOP) to all fruits and vegetables (TOTAL).

Decline in GDP

†209. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a sharp decline has been reported in GDP of the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.