

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Crop Estimates**

1092. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with good monsoon we hope to get bumper crop this year, if so, the estimates of kharif foodgrains, oil seeds, cotton etc.;

(b) whether this would be an all-time high record; and

(c) how far it would take us to self-sufficiency and help us to control prices of foodgrains and edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The country has received good rainfall during monsoon and a good harvest is expected this year. As per the First Advance Estimates released on 30.9.2003, the estimated kharif production of foodgrains, oilseeds, cotton and sugarcane are given below:—

First Advance Estimates

(Million Tonnes)

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Cereals | 103.01 |
| Pulses | 5.44 |
| Total Foodgrains | 108.45 |
| Total Kharif Oilseeds | 15.08 |
| Cotton | 13.12* |
| Sugarcane | 261.37 |

*million bales of 170 kgs. each

(b) The all time record production of foodgrains was achieved during 2001-02, when the total foodgrains production was 212.02 million tonnes which consisted of 111.55 million tonnes of kharif foodgrains production and 100.47 million tonnes of rabi foodgrains production. In case of oilseeds, the highest level of production was achieved during 1998-99 which was 24.75 million tonnes which consisted of 15.80 million tonnes of kharif oilseeds production and 8.95 million tonnes of rabi oilseeds

production. In case of cotton, the highest level of production was achieved during 1996-97 which was 14.23 million bales of 170 kgs. each while the highest level of production of sugarcane was recorded during 2001-02 which was 301.10 million tonnes. At this point of time it is difficult to say whether the production of various crops would exceed the highest levels referred to above.

(c) As regards foodgrains, there has been no shortage. In fact, the comfortable stock position coupled with high production in 1999-2000 and 2001-02 has led to a decline of 1.2% in the wholesale price index with base 1993-94=100 of foodgrains during the last three years (1999-2000 to 2002-03). As regards edible oils, the domestic production of oilseeds is inadequate to meet the needs for ensuring the required production of edible oils in the country. Despite the fact that the production of oilseeds increased from 18.61 million tonnes in 1990-91 to 24.75 million tonnes in 1998-99, the import of edible oils increased from 4.85 lakh tonnes to 26.22 lakh tonnes during the same period. The import of edible oils increased to 42.66 lakh tonnes in 2002-03 which of course reflect the decline in domestic production in subsequent years, especially in 2002-03 due to severe drought. The demand for edible oils is influenced by a number of factors like population growth, per capita income and market prices both at home and abroad. It is therefore difficult to ascertain the time required to achieve self-sufficiency in edible oils.

Promotion of fisheries

1093. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of fisheries that were opened by farmers in the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether Government have taken a pro-active step to promote fisheries to farmers of good climatic and water conditions to improve their economy;

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?