

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:254  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001  
FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION  
ANANTA NAYAK;TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal to launch a long term plan to double foodgrain production ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the country's vast agricultural potentials have not been fully tapped;
- (d) if so, the steps taken to tap the untapped potentials; and
- (e) the various strategies proposed to be adopted to increase foodgrain production ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 254 DUE FOR REPLY ON 14.03.2001.

(a)&(b): The targets of foodgrain production are fixed by the Planning Commission on the basis of 5-year Plans. The Planning Commission has earlier suggested a target of 300 million tonnes of foodgrains production by 2007-08, comprising Rice 130.0, Wheat 109.0, Coarse Cereals 41.0 and Pulses 20.0 million tonnes which is the target for foodgrains production during the first year of XI Plan.

(c)&(d): Agriculture in India has made progress and reached a record production level of 208.8 million tonnes of foodgrains during 1999-2000. This achievement is a result of judicious use of inputs and agricultural potential for crop production. To supplement the state efforts, various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes are under implementation. The important schemes are Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals based Cropping System Areas, Special Jute Development Programme (SJD), Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System Areas (SUBACS), Technology Mission on Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize (TMOP & M), National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), Seed Unit Programmes on Wheat, Rice and Coarse Cereals, Reclamation and development of alkali soils, Balanced and integrated use of fertiliser and Promotion of Agricultural mechanisation among the small and marginal farmers.

With a view to utilise the natural resources for agricultural production, Planning Commission has suggested the following projections:

Item	1996-97	2001-02	2006-07
Net Sown area (mill. ha)	142	142	142
Gross Cropped area (mill. ha)	191	203	213
Cropping Intensity (%)	134	143	150
Gross Irrigated area (mill. ha)	76	89	106
Gross Irr. Area as a % of GCA	40	44	50

Area remaining constant, the focus is on creation of additional irrigation potential for agriculture purpose. In addition, the centrally sponsored scheme of watershed management is being implemented in different States on project areas basis.

(e): The strategies proposed to increase foodgrains production are given in the Annexure. With a view to provide more flexibility to the states, 27 Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been sub-summed and will be implemented on Macro Management Mode. It is

envisaged that states efforts will be complemented/supplemented so as to adopt regionally differentiated technology suited to their agroclimatic conditions.

## ANNEXURE

The strategies proposed to increase foodgrains production

- (i) Promoting cropping system approach of increasing the production and productivity of cereal crops as a whole against the individual crop approach. Encouragement will be given to follow green manuring and use of compost and other organic sources.
- (ii) Encouraging varietal replacement and propagation of newer location specific High Yielding Varieties with biotic and abiotic resistance.
- (iii) Improving the resource base of the farmers and encouraging devices for efficient water management for timely and effective field operations.
- (iv) Popularisation of improved crop production technologies through organisation of field demonstrations on farmer's holding and training of farmers and farm labourers including women.
- (v) Encouraging the integrated nutrient management for sustainable agricultural production.
- (vi) Greater emphasis on the adoption of Integrated Pest Management Approach to control the pests and diseases and also use of weedicides to control the weed menace to crops.
- (vii) More emphasis on the proper adoption of non-monetary inputs like timely sowing, maintaining optimum plant population, efficient use of fertilizer and need based plant protection measures.
- (viii) Extension education efforts will be strengthened to make farmers more receptive to new technology.
- (ix) Research efforts are being made for reclamation of saline alkali water logged and acidic soil and also insitu moisture conservation, rainfed water harvesting, ground water recharge coupled with improved dryland farming technologies.
- (x) Research are done to develop high yielding hybrids in crops like rice, maize, pearl millets, sorghum and pigeon pea, high yielding varieties of different foodgrains crops and pulses with in built resistance to measure biotic and abiotic stresses for cultivation in different agro-climatic areas.
- (xi) Development efforts are also being made to protect run-off and prevent soil loss from watershed, improved land capability and moisture regime, creation of awareness for catchment core and optimisation of resources for socio-economic upliftment.
- (xii) To reclaim alkali land for increasing crops production and improved land productivity.