

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4978  
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000  
PRODUCTION OF RAGI  
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

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

- (a) the total production of cereal 'Ragi' in the country particularly in Karnataka during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether the production of Ragi has come down drastically in recent years;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the proposals to extend assistance to Ragi growers in the State in view of Ragi being considered as having curable value for diabetes?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) & (b) The total production of ragi in the country as well as Karnataka during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is given in the following table:

(000 tonnes)

All- India Karnataka

1997-98	2089	1283
1998-99	2814	1805
1999-2000#	2315	1392

# Advance estimates as on 27.3.2000

(c) Though the production of ragi in Karnataka and at all-India level during 1998-99 was higher than the corresponding figures for 1997-98, it is likely to decline during 1999-2000 due to aberrant weather conditions.

(d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is extending assistance to ragi farmers in terms of improved varieties and their production-protection technologies. Through extensive recombination breeding using Indian and African germplasm, improved varieties with high yield potential and blast resistance have been developed and released for general cultivation by farmers. Most important varieties are GPU-28 and GPU-26.

ICAR and Central Food Technology Research Institute, Mysore are conducting research on the development of special foods for diabetic patients using ragi malt.