

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1941

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003

REDUCED COST OF PRODUCTION WITH QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENT

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reduce the cost of production of wheat and rice and improve its quality to compete with the international market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): Constant efforts are being made to reduce the cost of production of wheat and rice and improve its quality to compete with the international market. In wheat, more than 200 varieties have been developed since 1965 and many of these have become popular among farmers. In rice, more than 640 varieties have been developed since 1965. The major thrust has been on enhancing quality and global competitiveness of wheat and rice and increase their production, productivity and profitability with better quality of both common and durum wheat and rice in all the growing ecologies.

All the public sector banks have recently been advised to reduce their landing rate for agriculture to single digit of not more than 9% per annum on crop loans up to a ceiling of Rs.50000/-. This will lead to reduction in the cost of production.