

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1715
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004
PRODUCTION OF PULSES
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the per capita availability of pulses during 2003-2004 as compared to year 1984;
- (b) whether there has been a fall in the per capita availability of pulses;
- (c) if so, the reason therefore, and the steps taken by the Government to increase the per capita availability of pulses;
- (d) whether the production of pulses has been stagnating over the years;
- (e) whether this has adversely affected the price of pulses in the open market; and
- (f) if so, the details of steps taken to make available pulses at reasonable prices to weaker section?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

- (a): Per capita availability of pulses in 2003 is placed at 29.1 gms. per day as compared to 41.9 gms. per day in 1984
- (b): Yes, Sir.
- (c): Fluctuating pulses production dependent on the behaviour of monsoon apart from increasing population had a negative effect on the availability of pulses.
The Government has been declaring Minimum Support Prices for major pulses like Tur (Arhar), Moong, Urad, Masoor & Gram. In the last few years the increase in MSPs of pulses announced has been comparatively higher than in respect of other foodgrains. Upto the year 2003-04, National Pulses Development Project was in implementation in 30 states. Since, April, 2004 an Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize aimed at increasing production and productivity is operational in 14 States.
- (d): The production of pulses is estimated to increase by 11.37% in 2003-04 to 14.89 million tones from 13.37 million tones in 2001-02.
- (e): The Wholesale Price Index (1993-94 = 100) for Pulses for the year ended on 26th June, 2004 declined by 3.6% compared to a decline of 2.2% in the corresponding previous year. This reflects the increase in availability of pulses through imports.
- (f): Implementation of Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize is expected to boost production and productivity of pulses, thereby making available pulses at reasonable rates to all, including weaker section. In view of the domestic supply-demand gap, pulses are imported to ensure adequate supply at reasonable prices.