

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:191

ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004

DECLINE IN FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION IN TRIBAL AREAS

Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

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

- (a) whether foodgrain production in tribal areas of Orissa, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand is continuously declining as these areas depend only on rain;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken by the Government;
- (c) whether the Government is providing adequate quantity of foodgrains to the affected tribals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 191 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19TH JULY, 2004.

(a)&(b): Statistics on crop production are not compiled separately for Tribal Areas. According to the state-wise figures of tribal population released by the Office of the Registrar General of India for 2001, the proportion of tribal population in total population in Andhra Pradesh (6.6%) and West Bengal (5.5%) is less than the corresponding proportion at the all-India level which is 8.2%. In the States of Chattisgarh (31.8%), Jharkhand (26.3%) and Orissa (22.1%), the proportion of tribal population in total population is much higher than the corresponding proportion at the all-India level.

The trends in foodgrains production in the States of Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh & West Bengal may be seen from the following Table.

Trends in Foodgrains Production (Million tonnes)

State(s) 99-2000 2000-01 2001-02 2002-03 2003-04

|                |       |       |       |       |       |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Chattisgarh    | 2.90  | 5.78  | 3.16  | 4.56  |       |
| Jharkhand      | 2.01  | 2.24  | 2.68  | 2.94  |       |
| Orissa         | 5.62  | 4.98  | 7.56  | 3.56  | 7.31  |
| Andhra Pradesh | 13.70 | 16.03 | 14.84 | 10.45 | 13.22 |
| West Bengal    | 14.92 | 13.82 | 16.50 | 15.52 | 16.07 |

Note: Chattisgarh & Jharkhand are newly created States for which data are available from 2001 onwards.

As may be seen from the above Table, out of the three States with high percentage of tribal population, viz. Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa, foodgrains production showed wide fluctuations in Chattisgarh and Orissa whereas in Jharkhand it registered a steady increase. In all these three states, rice accounts for more than 80% of the foodgrains production and fluctuations in production in Chattisgarh and Orissa reflected mainly fluctuation in rice production. These States mainly depend on rainfall for water, and fluctuation

in rice production has been caused mainly by fluctuation in rainfall.

(c) to (e): Foodgrains are distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and welfare schemes. Foodgrains are provided under PDS to the bulk of the population at affordable/concessional rates. With the introduction of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), PDS has become pro-poor. Under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), which is a sub- component of the TPDS, the 'poorest of the poor' are provided foodgrains at highly concessional rates. With effect from 1st April 2004, it has been decided to enhance coverage under AAY to 2 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families with tribal States/Districts/Belts receiving special attention. Foodgrains supplied under welfare schemes do not require payment. However, under some of the schemes like Sampoorna Grameena Rozgar Yojana (SGRY : normal and special components), foodgrains are provided as wages for work done in productive or relief works as unskilled and semi-skilled labour.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Grain Banks in tribal villages since 1996-97 in 13 states, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal. The objective of the Village Grain Bank Scheme (VGBS) is to ensure preventive measures against death of children in selected remote and backward tribal areas. As regards the newly created states of Jharkhand and Chattisgarh, while proposal for Village Grain Bank Scheme (VGBS) has been received from the Government of Chattisgarh, which is under processing, no proposal on VGBS has so far been received from Jharkhand.