

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat during 1997-98. The STC has contracted for import of 10 lakh tonnes of wheat as per details given below:

Country	Contract Date	Qty. in lakh MT	Price per MT in US\$
Australia	26.3.97	2.50	155.00 FOB
		7.50	154.25 FOB

The average C and F rate of imported wheat would be approximately Rs. 6220 per MT.

(c) Approximate handling charges for imported wheat in Indian ports would be Rs. 167 per MT. The cost of transportation would depend on the final destination and actual cost would be known only after total despatches of imported wheat from the ports are over.

(d) Imported wheat will be added to the Central Pool stocks and will be utilised for the Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes. Sale price of imported wheat will be the same as that of indigenous wheat and would depend on the scheme under which it is issued. The landed cost of imported wheat at the distribution point will depend on the distance from the port of landing.

(e) Excluding transport, insurance, handling charges etc., the actual price which farmers in Australia get will be around Rs. 3960/- per MT. The Minimum Support Price for wheat in India has been fixed at Rs. 4150/- per MT and additional Rs. 60/- per MT is given as bonus to the farmers for 1997-98.

National Research Centre on Grapes

4828. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted any proposal for the establishment of National Research Centre on Grapes at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND

MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka offered land for the purpose. The Site Selection Team after visiting all the sites offered by these State Governments recommended Manjri Farm of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri in Pune District of Maharashtra for the establishment of National Research Centre on Grapes. The National Research Centre on Grapes has already been established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at Pune and research activities initiated.

State Farms Corporation of India

4829. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether primary objective of the State Farms Corporation of India is to produce and market quality seeds in the country;

(b) whether this Corporation has been suffering financial losses for the last many years;

(c) if so, the details of profit and losses incurred during each year since 1990-91;

(d) the manner in which the functions of this Corporation and the National Seeds Corporation materially differ from each other;

(e) whether the Government had ever considered the question of the merger of these two organisations;

(f) if so, the result thereof; and

(g) the primary reasons for having two separate infrastructure functioning basically for the similar objectives and activities?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The profit and loss of the Corporation since 1990-91 are as under:

Year	(Rs. in Lakhs) Profit(+)/Loss(-)
1990-91	(+) 141.62
1991-92	(+) 208.14
1992-93	(-) 603.87
1993-94	(-) 176.44
1994-95	(+) 281.67
1995-96	(+) 117.47

(d) The National Seeds Corporation was established in 1963 to produce foundation seeds of hybrids of maize and to encourage the production of certified seeds. The mandate of NSC has subsequently been expanded to the production of foundation and certified seeds of varieties of all-India importance for crops of cereal, vegetables, green manure and fodder. NSC undertake seed production mainly through contract growing arrangements with progressive farmers. It markets seeds through its own sale outlets and a large network of dealers.

On the other hand, the State Farms Corporation of India was established in 1969 to manage the running of Central Mechanised Farms set up with Russian assistance in the 1950s. While initially in the 1950s it was proposed that these farms should undertake production of foodgrains, the production programmes of SFCI have been reoriented to the production of quality seeds. At present, SFCI is engaged in multiplication of breeder, foundation and certified seeds in its own 12 farms spread all over the country comprising an area of 36141 hectares. SFCI has also established elite-progeny orchards for producing quality horticultural planting material. SFCI markets its seeds mainly through the State Governments or their agencies.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) In view of the position indicated above, the question does not arise.

(g) As explained in part (d), the National Seeds Corporation and the State Farms Corporation of India were set up in different contexts. While both the Corporations are mandated to produce and distribute quality seeds, their production and marketing strategies are different. NSC produces seeds mainly through contract growing arrangements with farmers. SFCI produces seeds directly on its own farms. Managerial expertise needed for contract growing of seeds is different from that needed for direct seed production.

Production of Pulses

4830. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current year's production of pulses is likely to fall substantially;

(b) if so, the estimated production of pulses likely to be achieved as against the target, State-wise;

(c) the major causes attributed to the fall in production target;

(d) the estimated gap between demand and supply as a result thereof; and

(e) the manner in which demand and supply gap is proposed to be met?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) The production of pulses in the country is expected to be about 14.0 million tonnes as against the targetted level of 15.0 million tonnes during 1996-97.

(b) A statement giving State-wise target and likely production of pulses during 1996-97 is enclosed.

(c) The reasons for shortfall in target of production of pulses are that pulses generally grown under rainfed conditions in less productive marginal lands where the crops often suffer due to moisture stress conditions. Besides, pulses are also more prone to damage by insects, pests and diseases. Because of the high risk involved, cultivation of pulses is generally done under low input use and inadequate management practices which affect the productivity.

(d) The gap between demand and supply of pulses in the country is estimated about two million tonnes.

(e) For increasing the production of pulses in the country, the Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP). For propagation of improved pulses production technology, field demonstrations and farmers trainings are being organised. To motivate farmers for the adoption of improved pulses production technology, incentives on the use of certified seeds, rhizobium culture, micro nutrients, improved farm implements, sprinkler sets etc. are also provided. The Government also at times resorts to import of pulses to bridge the gap between demand and supply.

Statement

State-wise Target and likely production of Pulses during 1996-97.

(As on 9.4.97)
(000' Tonnes)

State	Target	Likely Production
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	780	618
Assam	65	78
Bihar	837	730
Gujarat	695	706
Haryana	535	482
Himachal Pradesh	15	32
Jammu & Kashmir	25	17