

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:118

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007

PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT OF WHEAT

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the rate of production of wheat has been declining over the past two decades;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any targets were fixed by the Government for production of wheat during the ensuing Rabi season;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has reviewed the ensuing Rabi crop situation;
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof indicating the extent to which the targets are likely to be achieved, State-wise;
- (g) whether the Government has asked the States to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the farmers in the wheat growing States;
- (h) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto;
- (i) the likely impact of fall in wheat production on food based welfare schemes; and
- (j) the steps taken to promote sustainable production of wheat in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Following table shows the rate of production (yield) of wheat from 1990-91 to 2006-07:

	Yield (Kg/Hectare)									
Year	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	
Yield	2281	2394	2327	2380	2559	2483	2679	2485	2590	

Year	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07#
Yield	2778	2708	2762	2610	2713	2602	2619	2675

2nd advance estimates as on 05.02.07

The yield of wheat shows long term increasing trend during the years 1990-91 to 2006-07. It increased from 2281 kg/hectare to 2778 kg/hectare during the 1990s. Recently, 2002-03 was a drought year, rainfall from south-west monsoon was 13% less than its long period average in 2004-05 and there was abnormal rise in temperature in the States of north-western region in 2005-06, which adversely affected the yield of wheat during these years.

(c) & (d): The Government has fixed a target of 75.53 million tonnes for production of wheat during the ensuing Rabi season 2006-07.

(e) & (f): Continuous monitoring of the crop situation is done by the Government in the weekly Crop Weather Watch Group meetings held in the Ministry. The 2nd Advance Estimates of production of wheat for 2006-07 were released on 05.02.2007. State-wise targets and estimated achievements for 2006-07 are given in the Annexure.

(g) & (h): Government has organized a series of meetings with the major wheat growing States to evolve strategies for increasing productivity and production of wheat during 2006-07 as also to review the water, power and other inputs position.

(i): The procurement of wheat during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2006-07 was low and the Government imported 55 lakh tonnes of wheat to meet the requirements of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and welfare schemes. It is estimated that sufficient

wheat would be procured in RMS 2007-08 for TPDS and welfare schemes because of higher production estimates and higher procurement price for wheat announced by the Government.

(j): In order to increase the production of wheat in the country a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat)' subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October 2000 is under implementation. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstrations, training of farmers including women, transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, varietal replacement and production of certified seeds.