

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:671

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is the largest importer of pulses, oil seeds and foodgrains in the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether due to the negligence of the cultivation of pulses, farmers are not getting the benefits of improved variety of seeds developed by scientists in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any plan to boost the production of pulses and oilseeds in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per FAO data, India is the largest importer of pulses in the world. Details of value of import of pulses, oilseeds and foodgrains are given in Annexure.

(c) to (f): Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored `Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)` for increasing the production and productivity of these crops in the country and to make the country self- sufficient. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, training, publicity, etc. to encourage farmers to grow these crops.

In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through Indian Council of Agriculture and Research.

Government of India has also launched National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for wheat, rice and pulses from Rabi 2007-08. Enhancement of productivity and production through various interventions has been envisaged under the NFSM-Pulses.