

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:798

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008

AREA UNDER CROPS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under wheat and other foodgrains cultivation in the country during the present Rabi season is less than that of the previous years;

(b) if so, the details of area taken under the cultivation of wheat, paddy, oilseeds, pulses, sugarcane and cotton separately during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the shortage in production due to less area taken under cultivation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Table below presents the estimated area coverage under different foodgrain crops during Rabi 2008 (2nd advance estimates) and that during Rabi 2007 and Rabi 2006:

(Lakh Hectares)

Crop	Rabi 2008	Rabi 2007	Rabi 2006
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Wheat	271.99	279.95	264.84
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Paddy	40.93	42.12	43.25
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Coarse Cereals	58.28	63.14	63.64
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Pulses	116.10	125.16	117.12
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Foodgrains	487.29	510.37	488.84
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While the area coverage under wheat is higher in Rabi 2008 compared to that in Rabi 2006 and lower as compared to Rabi 2007, the area coverage under other crops in Rabi 2008 is lower compared to Rabi 2007 and Rabi 2006.

(b): Table below presents the area coverage (both Kharif and Rabi seasons) under wheat, paddy, oilseeds, pulses, sugarcane and cotton during 2004-05 to 2006-07 :

(Lakh Hectares)

Crop	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
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Wheat 279.95 264.84 263.83

Paddy 438.14 436.60 419.07

Oilseeds 265.13 278.63 275.23

Pulses 231.92 223.91 227.63

Sugarcane 51.51 42.02 36.62

Cotton 91.45 86.77 87.87

(c): As per the 2nd advance estimates for 2007-08 released on 07.02.2008, production of foodgrains is estimated at 219.32 million tonnes which is 2.04 million tonnes more than 217.28 million tonnes of foodgrains production during 2006-07. Further, the Government has launched National Food Security Mission from Rabi 2007-08 to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses.