

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:382
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
SUGARCANE PRODUCTION
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a decline in production of sugarcane in the country over the years;
- (b) if so, the production of sugarcane at the end of the season 2007-08 vis-à-vis that for the previous two years;
- (c) the reasons for low production and the areas where that has been prominent;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to fix a target for higher production of sugarcane in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken for the same?

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. 382 DUE FOR REPLY ON 21ST APRIL, 2008.

(a) to (c): No, Sir. The production of sugarcane in the country shows an increasing trend over the last five years (2003-04 to 2007-08). The sugarcane production was 233.86 million tones in 2003-04, which increased to 237.09 million tones in 2004-05, 281.17 million tones in 2005-06 and further to 355.52 million tones in 2006-07. The sugarcane production during 2007-08 is estimated at 340.32 million tones (2nd Advance Estimates released on 7th February, 2008), which is less than the production during the previous year. The decrease in production during 2007-08 is on account of less area coverage under sugarcane during 2007-08 as compared to 2006-07. Among the major producing States, lower production during 2007-08 has been reported in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

(d) & (e): During the years 2005-06 to 2007-08, sugarcane production in the country has been more than the corresponding targets. Keeping in view the demand for sugar in the country, it is not considered desirable to have higher target for sugarcane production than what is being achieved.

To increase the production and productivity of sugarcane in the country, Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) in different States subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture since April, 2004.