

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:317

ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008

FOOD SECURITY

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether a study titled 'Economics of Food Self Sufficiency' by agricultural economist H.S. Shergill reveals that India's Food Security is under threat and it could become a net importer by 2020 if stagnant production trends are not reversed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;and

(c) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken to secure the country's Food Security?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The compound rate of growth of production of cereals for the period from 1967-68 to 2007-08 is about 2.48% per annum and for the period from 2000-01 to 2007-08, it is about 1.95% per annum. The long term and medium term rate of growth of production of cereals is higher than the growth rate of population post 2001. The Government is aware of the importance of agriculture sector in ensuring food security and has taken a number of initiatives and measures to improve the agricultural production and productivity. The initiatives include launching of National Food Security Mission to increase production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes respectively by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, revamping of agricultural extension and reforms in agricultural marketing etc. It is expected that with the new initiatives taken the foodgrain production will lie more than the demand.