

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1839
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010
SUGARCANE PRODUCTION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the average sugarcane production in the States vis-a-vis the country's average production during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken to develop high yielding and blight resistant varieties of sugarcane; and
- (c) the steps being taken to increase the acreage under sugarcane cultivation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Production of sugarcane State-wise and at all-India level during the last three years and the current year i.e. 2006-07 to 2009-10 are given in Annexure.

(b): The designated Research Institutes under ICAR are engaged in conducting basic and applied research for developing suitable high yielding varieties of sugarcane in the country. The Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore and Indian Institute for Sugarcane Research, Lucknow are devoted for developing high yielding varieties of sugarcane. All- India coordinated research project on sugarcane through its coordinating centres involving State Agricultural Universities located in different agro-climatic zones of the country are also developing high yielding varieties of sugarcane. As blight disease is not an important disease, blight resistant variety of sugarcane has not been developed.

(c): In order to encourage farmers to increase the farming of sugarcane, Government is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems (SUBACS) in various sugarcane growing States of the country.

The main thrust of the scheme is on transfer of improved technologies to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of farm implements, enhancing seeds production and pest management measures etc. To give more flexibility to the states and implement the scheme on the basis of states' priorities and requirements, this scheme has been clubbed under the Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA). In addition, the Government of India provides 100% financial support for organization of front line demonstrations, national level trainings and breeder seed production through Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities.

Further, in order to check shift in cultivable area from sugarcane to other crops and to ensure that cultivation of sugarcane is not rendered unattractive and unprofitable vis-a-vis wheat and rice, the Government has also approved fixation of higher Fair & Remunerative Prices (FRP) of sugarcane for 2009-10 sugar season at Rs.129.84 per quintal as compared to Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of Rs.81.18 per quintal fixed for the previous sugar season.