

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2021  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010  
CULTIVATION OF RABI CROPS  
Raghavan Shri M. K.

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

- (a) whether there has been a lower acreage in the cultivation of rabi crops across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the shortfall witnessed in foodgrains production in the kharif season is likely to add to the overall situation of foodgrain shortage in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the availability of foodgrains in the country?

**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) & (b): As on 05-03-2010, an area of 383.03 lakh hectare has been sown under total food grains in the country, which is 9.72 lakh hectares more than the normal area of 373.31 lakh hectares. The area coverage of wheat, the major Rabi crop, has also increased by 7.19 lakh hectares compared to the normal coverage of 270.98 lakh hectares. There is a major gain of 24.87 lakh hectares under pulses coverage also compared to normal coverage of 119.47 lakh hectares. The coverage under oilseeds has been 93.05 lakh hectares as against 90.92 lakh hectares covered during last Rabi.

(c): As per the second advance estimate of ESA, the total food grain production in rabi has exceeded the target. However, a total food grain production of 216.85 million tonnes is estimated against the target of 239.1 million tonnes.

(d): In order to increase the production and productivity of food grains, Ministry is providing assistance to the farmers for procuring inputs such as seeds, micronutrients, plant protection chemicals, machineries etc. under various centrally sponsored and Central Sector Schemes of National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc.