

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5053

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010

PRODUCTION OF PULSES

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the production of pulses has not been keeping pace with the increasing demand primarily on account of low productivity and susceptibility to pests and diseases;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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): The production of pulses has increased from 14.20 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 14.74 million tonnes in 2009-10 as per second advance estimate for 2009-10 of Directorate of Economics and Statistics. Pulses crops are grown primarily in rainfed areas. They are considered risky crops on account of their susceptibility to pests and diseases, resulting in low productivity. In order to bridge the demand and supply gaps, National Food Security Mission was started in 2007-08 to increase the productivity of food crops including pulses through promotion of technology in potential districts of the country.

(b) & (c): National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has been strengthened recently with enhanced scope for more intensive promotion of pulses crops. Pulses components of Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) have been merged in the mission and all the districts in the ISOPOM/NFSM States are now covered under NFSM Pulses. In addition, 15 districts of Jharkhand and 10 districts of Assam have also been included under NFSM Pulses based on their potential for pulses development. Thus, revamped NFSM Pulses is now covering in 458 districts of 16 states as against earlier 171 districts of 14 states. The mission provides assistance for promotion of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management, farm mechanization, demonstrations and trainings of farmers etc.

In addition to the above mentioned enhancement of scope, new initiative - Accelerated Pulses Production Programme has been launched as part of NFSM Pulses from 2010-11. Under 'Accelerated Pulses Production Programme', 1 million hectare of potential pulses areas for the major pulses crops - tur, urad, moong, gram and lentil has been taken up for large scale demonstration of technology in compact blocks.

In addition to this, an amount of Rs.300 crores has been provided in the union budget 2010-11 to promote dry land farming in sixty thousand 'Pulses and oilseeds villages' in rainfed areas. These funds have been provided as additional central assistance under the ongoing scheme of 'Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)'.