

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:19
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
GROUNDNUT PRODUCTION
Balram Shri P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether groundnut production in the country declined during the year 2009-10 leading to a surge in the price of groundnut oil;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.19 DUE FOR REPLY ON 09-11-2010.

(a) & (b): The estimated production of groundnut in the country during 2009-10 is lower at 5.51 million tonnes (4th Advance Estimates) as compared to 7.17 million tonnes during 2008-09. The production of groundnut during 2009-10 declined due to drought in various parts including groundnut producing areas of the country. Despite decline in production, the average wholesale price of groundnut oil in the country during October, 2009 was lower at Rs.7780.15 per quintal as compared to Rs.8103.59 per quintal during October, 2008. However, the average wholesale price of groundnut oil during October, 2010 is higher at Rs. 8489.54 per quintal.

(c): In order to increase production and productivity of oilseeds including groundnut in the country, the Government is implementing an Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) since 01-04-2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for production of breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed and Minikits, infrastructure development, Integrated Pest Management etc. Further, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and All India Coordinated Research Programmes (AICRPs), several high yielding and trait specific varieties of groundnut suitable for different agro-ecologies have been developed and released in the country. The matching crop production and protection technologies suitable for these varieties have also been developed for enhancing the productivity. The varieties and production technologies are being demonstrated through front line demonstrations for dissemination and adoption by the farmers. Similarly, emphasis is being laid on balanced use of nutrients and micro-nutrients. Considering the high productivity during rabi/summer cultivation, raised bed planting with drip irrigation is also being promoted in some parts of the country.

In order to contain prices of edible oils in the country and hardship to consumers, especially the poorer sections of the society, the Government has taken a number of steps such as reduction in the import duty, ceiling on export of edible oils, liberalization on oil usage in vanaspati, imposition of stock limits on edible oils and oilseeds by States, distribution of subsidized edible oils to the poorer sections of the society etc. Further, in order to encourage production of solvent extracted oils in the country and to promote export of extraction, excise duty on food grade hexane has been reduced to 14%.