

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1166
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010
CROP CYCLE
Pandey Saroj

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the existing crop cycle is capable of ensuring foodgrain security in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether the Government is formulating any action plan to encourage farmers to change the crop cycle in order to ensure foodgrain security in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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) to (d): Yes, Madam. The existing crop cycle is capable of ensuring food security especially of rice, wheat, which is evident from the demand supply scenario of these major crops in the last 3 years. During the last 3 years i.e. 2007-08 to 2009-10, the estimated production of Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals and total Foodgrains (except pulses) was higher than the projected demand of foodgrains except 2009-10. Due to severe drought that prevailed in most parts of the country during 2009-10, the estimated production was less as compared to projected demand. The details of projected demand and estimated production of major foodgrains crops during 2007-08 to 2009-10 are annexed. However, the pulses production has more or less remained constant in the last 3 years.

For enhancing the pulses production, pulses cultivation in the rice fallow areas; as intercrops with sugarcane, cotton, other pulses etc; replacement of low productive upland rice area with pulses cultivation; summer moong in Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh and Punjab in Wheat-Pulses-Rice cycle are encouraged under various crop development programme.