

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2315

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009

CROP PLANNING

Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India would soon be the biggest importer of wheat despite the fact that 60 per cent of population is dependent upon agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest the trend;
- (d) whether there is lack of planning in regard to growing various crops in the country; and
- (e) if so, the corrective measures taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. According to the Third Advance Estimates, wheat production for 2008-09 was 77.63 million tonnes, while the projected demand for wheat in 2008-09 is 72.72 million tonnes. This projected demand is based on growth of population, growth of per capita disposable income and expenditure elasticity.

(c) to (e): As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence Statistics (DGCIS), wheat import has decreased from 6.1 million tones in 2006-07 to 1.8 million tones in 2007-08 & only 30 tones in 2008-09. New schemes like National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) are introduced to increase crop productions. NFSM has three components namely NFSM- Rice, NFSM- Wheat and NFSM- Pulses. Under NFSM-Wheat, 141 districts are covered in the country. Through price support policy, inter price parity is maintained between crops which encourages the farmers for cultivation of different crops. Minimum Support Price for wheat in 2009-10 has been increased to Rs. 1080 per quintal from Rs. 1000 per quintal in 2008-09 to encourage farmers to produce more wheat.