

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3211
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
PER CAPITA AVAILABILITY OF CEREALS AND PULSES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether per capita availability of foodgrains for all the cereals and pulses is showing a declining trend;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the availability of foodgrains?

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): There have been fluctuations in per capita availability of foodgrains, cereals and pulses mainly due to fluctuations in foodgrains production caused by variations in weather conditions. The figures of net per capita availability of foodgrains, cereals and pulses during the period 2004-2008 are given below:-

(grams per day)

Year	Cereals	Pulses	Foodgrains
2004	426.9	35.8	462.7
2005	390.9	31.5	422.4
2006	412.8	32.5	445.3
2007	407.4	35.5	442.8
2008 (Prov.)	374.6	41.8	436.0

(c): To increase the production and thereby the availability of foodgrains Government implements a number of programmes/schemes. National Food Security Mission launched in 2007-08, aims to increase the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan (2011-12). Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana launched in 2007-08 seeks to push up the investment in agriculture to improve productivity and reduce yield gaps across the country. The Government also provides good quality seeds, disease free planting material, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest, development of agricultural market infrastructure. Through the extension activities farmers are educated to adopt modern agricultural practices. Given the production and availability in the country, appropriate measures are taken by the Government which include review of imports.