

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4381
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES
Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Agriculture Productivity is below the international standards/norm;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any agriculture research and development scheme undertaken to raise the agricultural production to the level of international standards during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Our agriculture productivity is less in some of the crops and commodities in comparison to international standards, as Indian farming is predominantly rainfed farming and dependent on unpredictable monsoon rains. Besides, our input in terms of fertilizer use, micronutrient use, seed replacement rate etc are much less as compared to a number of other developed and developing countries. Even the crop duration is important for increasing productivity. For example, wheat varieties grown in China in winter produce more, but take longer duration (270 days) as compared to Indian wheat varieties which take less time (150 days) to mature. Similar is the case in many other crops. Our crop productivity per unit area, per unit time and per unit energy is very much comparable to world scenario.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The DARE/ICAR is constantly striving to achieve excellence in agricultural production. In the recent past, DARE/ICAR has released/identified 96 varieties/hybrids of crops, such as Bt. Gene Cotton (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), Bikaneri Nerma resistant to boll worm. Besides, production of quality seeds of field crops has reached a record level of 0.85 lakh tonne during 2008-09.

In Fisheries Sector, through freshwater aquaculture, early breeding of Catla and Rohu has been achieved, paving the way for year-round availability of their seed.

In Animal Science Sector, ICAR has achieved a unique scientific landmark in the birth of cloned buffalo calf for the first time in the World and also launched quality animal seed production programme in sheep, goat, pig and poultry. DARE/ICAR has also developed a good number of tools, implements, processes and pilot plans like zero till drill, strip till drill, pneumatic planter, manure spreader etc. which have helped the farmers in enhancing their agriculture production.

DARE/ICAR is working in frontier areas of research viz. marker assisted selection, stem cell research, nanotechnology, cloning, genome resource conservation etc so as to enhance agricultural production. DARE/ICAR in the XI Plan has established a National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management in Maharashtra to address the issues related to impending climate change and two institutes namely National Institute of Biotic Stress Management and Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology are in the pipeline for undertaking high quality research. In addition, the Central Government has launched several schemes including Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Horticulture Mission and National Project for Soil health and Fertility for enhancing agricultural productivity.