

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4394
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011
MEASURES TO MAXIMISE RICE CULTIVATION
Choudhry Smt. Shruti

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of an innovative clay pellet method of rice cultivation;
- (b) if so, whether the Government contemplates to promote the said method to maximise the rice yield in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to promote the said method in the country including the State of Haryana?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (d): Clay pellet method of rice cultivation is a indigenous method. In this system, paddy seeds inserted in mud balls or clay pellets are sown. This method of cultivation is mainly practiced in the area of uncertain rainfall during the Kharif season. In this method, 2-3 seeds are inserted into a clay/ mud ball made from pond bottom clay at appropriate moisture condition and subsequently dried and kept ready for sowing. This system also avoids the bird damage to the seeds and seed remain safe after sowing even in dry soils and germinates well later, when sufficient amount of rainfall is received. This sorts of cultivation is practiced by the farmers of Eastern UP to manage the uncertainty of rainfall during Kharif season.

This method of cultivation is not suitable in all agro-climatic condition and soils in the country including Haryana, moreover it is more laborious and expensive method.

Government of India has given flexibility to the States for adopting different technologies as per local requirements under different schemes of Central Government like RKVY and NFSM for increasing crop production and productivity.