

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:466
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011
AREA UNDER PULSES AND OILSEEDS
Verma Smt. Usha

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the area under pulses and oilseeds cultivation during the last three years, Statewise;
- (b) the quantum of pulses and oilseeds imported during the above period;
- (c) whether the area under pulses and oilseeds cultivation is shrinking due to the high production costs and continued acquisition of cultivable land for other purposes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to expand the cultivable area?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 466 DUE FOR REPLY ON 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2011.

(a): State-wise details of area coverage under pulses and oilseeds during the last three years i.e., 2008-09 to 2010-11 are given in the Annexure.

(b): Details of quantities of pulses and oilseeds imported during the last three years are given in the table below:

Year Quantity imported
 ('000 Tonnes)

Pulses Oilseeds

2008-09	2474.11	40.78
2009-10	3509.58	70.06
2010-11	2591.25	52.80

(Provisional)

(c) & (d): The area coverage under pulses has been hovering around 23 million hectare and that under oilseeds has been in the range of around 26 million hectares. However, during 2010-11, the area under pulses is estimated to be significantly higher at 26.3 million hectares (4th Advance Estimates). Further, to avoid reduction in acreage of agricultural crops including pulses due to acquisition of arable land for non- agricultural purposes, the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy (NRRP)- 2007, inter-alia, envisages that as far as possible, projects may be set up on wasteland, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Also, acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural use in the projects may be kept to the minimum, multi-cropped land for such purposes may be avoided to the extent possible and acquisition of irrigated land, if unavoidable, may be kept to the minimum.

(e): In order to increase cultivable land in the country and maintain balance in different types of uses, the Government is implementing various programmes/schemes such as (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), (ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation & Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS) and (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA). Given the limited availability of cultivable land, competing demands of land from non-farm sectors and of different crops within the farm sector itself, to increase production of pulses and oilseeds in the country, emphasis is given on improvement in productivity of these crops. To increase production of pulses and oilseeds in the country through area expansion to the extent possible and enhancement of productivity, the Government of India is implementing various Crop Development Schemes such as National Food Security Mission-

Pulses, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Maize and Oil Palm (ISOPOM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) through State Governments. In addition to above schemes, during 2010-11, two new programmes for bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India and Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulses and Oilseeds Villages in rainfed areas have been initiated under RKVY. The National Food Security Mission has been strengthened from 1.4.2010 with the merger of pulses component of ISOPOM and inclusion of two new potential States namely; Assam and Jharkhand for pulses production. A new programme "Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P)" in the form of block demonstrations has been started in 16 pulse growing States of the country. Further, in order to incentivise farmers for cultivation of pulses and oilseeds, their Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 2010-11 have also been increased.