

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5454
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011
LESS WATER CONSUMING FOOD CROPS
Badal Harsimrat Kaur

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is promoting the use of high yielding varieties of wheat, rice and other food crops which consumes less water;
- (b) if so, the details of varieties evolved so far and promoted by the Government in the country;
- (c) whether research on these varieties are also going on in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other institutions in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) During 2001-2010, 39 rice varieties for upland direct seeded and 2 for aerobic conditions have been developed which require less water. Most important among them are Abhishek, Anjali, CR Dhan 40, Pant Dhan 16, Shabhagi Dhan, Shusk Samrat and Virender. In wheat, 22 varieties have been developed either for zero or 1-2 irrigations in the same period. In Pearl millet, 12 hybrids/varieties including improved HHB 67, GHB-757 and GHB-538 hybrids have been released during the last 20 years (1991-2011) for drier areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana where annual rainfall is <400 mm.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research through its All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs), based at various State Agricultural Universities, develop varieties in different crops for different agro-climatic conditions of the country. One component of such programmes is to develop varieties for rain fed/limited irrigation. There are 168 AICRP Centres across the country working on food crops viz. Rice : 47; Wheat : 31; Maize : 32; Sorghum : 18; Pearl Millet : 14; Small Millets : 13 and Under Utilized Crops : 13. State Agricultural Universities also carry out the research and release state level varieties.