

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4181

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011

SOWING OF RABI CROPS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the sowing of rabi crops including wheat has registered a decline during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per preliminary reports received from Crop Directorates for weekly meetings of Crop Weather Watch Group as on 16-12-2011, the area coverage under wheat during 2011-12 has been higher by 4.0 lakh hectares as compared to the area covered during the corresponding period of last rabi season. However, area coverage under rabi coarse cereals, pulses and oilseeds during 2011-12 has been lower by 2.8 lakh hectares, 1.1 lakh hectares and 6.0 lakh hectares respectively than the area coverage under the above crops during the corresponding period of last year. Lower coverage of area under rabi coarse cereals and pulses has been mainly on account of shortfall in area in States of Karnataka and Maharashtra due to moisture stress in the rabi sowing season. The shortfall in area under rabi oilseeds has been mainly due to lower area coverage under rapeseed and mustard in Rajasthan as compared to last year. In fact, area under rapeseed and mustard in Rajasthan during the last year i.e. 2010-11 was more than normal due to significantly higher (4.97 lakh hectare) area coverage under Taramira crop as against its normal coverage (0.91 lakh hectare) due to good rainfall and moisture conditions in the rabi sowing season in the State.

(c): Sowing of some of the rabi crops is still in progress and as per existing trend in progress of sowing, it is quite likely that the normal area under rabi would be covered by the end of the sowing season.