

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:218  
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012  
REDUCTION IN FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION  
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding soyabean and coarse grains like bajra and jowar being adversely hit due to drought like situation and thus reducing foodgrain production in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to address agrarian distress and its impact on rising food prices?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Dry spell and drought like situation in some parts of the country did not have major impact on overall production of foodgrains in the country. As per Second Advance estimate (Directorate of Economics & Statistics) 2011-12, the overall foodgrains production in the country is estimated at 250.42 million tonnes, which is 5.64 million tonnes higher than the last year's record production of 244.78 million tonnes. The production of total coarse cereals is estimated at 42.08 million tonnes, which includes 6.08 million tons of Jowar and 9.72 million tonnes of Bajra. The production of Soybean is estimated at 12.07 million tonnes.

The production shortfall in Soybean, Bajra and Jowar is not likely to affect the food prices as these are not the major staples consumed in our country. Their demand is mainly indirect, as these are generally used as inputs to animal feed and very little is directly consumed. As regard Soybean, its share in edible oils consumption is not substantial. Shortfall in domestic production is made through imports to keep the prices under control.