

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2104
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
DEMAND OF FOODGRAINS
Azad Shri Kirti (Jha)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the foodgrain production has increased at an average annual rate of only one percent during 1997-98 to 2006-07;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether to ensure food security in the country the total demand for foodgrains is projected at a growth of 280 million tonnes by 2021;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the required annual growth rate in this regard; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to achieve the above demand of foodgrains in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) & (b): The foodgrains production in the country has increased from 193.12 million tonnes in 1997-98 to 217.28 million tonnes in 2006-07 with an average annual growth rate of 1.88%. The reasons for slow growth in foodgrains production during the above period include deterioration in terms of trade for agriculture, deceleration in growth in fertilizer use, poor power supply to agriculture and also dietary diversification away from cereals.

(c) & (d): As per assessment made by the National Centre for Agricultural Economics & Policy Research (NCAP) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the total demand for foodgrains by 2020-21 has been projected at 280.6 million tonnes. Taking into account the current year's estimated production of 250.42 million tonnes of foodgrains (2nd advance estimates), the average annual increase of 1.34% would be required to achieve the production level of 280.6 million tonnes of foodgrains during 2020-21.

(e): In order to increase foodgrains production in the country, a number of Crop Development Schemes and Programmes, namely: National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme for Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals under Macro Management of Agriculture and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture through State Governments. In addition to above schemes, during 2010-11, two new programmes viz. Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India and Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulses and Oilseeds Villages in Rainfed Areas have been initiated under RKVY. 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 also been started to cover 1000 units of 1000 hectares each of five pulses crops in 16 pulses growing States of the country. To achieve higher agricultural productivity, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is also conducting basic and strategic research related to crop improvement, production and protection technologies in these crops towards profitable cropping systems suitable to different situations including development of location specific varieties and technologies as per the agro-ecological zones, development of varieties/hybrids, related production and protection technologies suitable for non-traditional areas and seasons. As a result of these initiatives, improved varieties/hybrids of crops have been developed with good adaptability to different agro-ecological zones with specific traits. Promotion and adoption of technologies are ensured through Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs).