

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1533  
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012  
RICE PRODUCTION  
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether India is the second largest producer and consumer of rice in the world whereas its share in the global rice trade is very less;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether rice is prime cereal and occupies nearly one-fourth of the total cropped acreage whereas its yield is 26.7 quintal per acre as compared to the world average of 35.5 quintal per acre;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve their position in the global trade and yield?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): Yes, Madam. India is the second largest producer and consumer of rice in the world. Rice is the staple food for two third population of the country. Its trade in the global market during 2011-12 was about 7 million tones (provisional). Rice occupies about 22.4 percent of the gross cropped area in the country. As per the report of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the year 2010, the productivity of rice in terms of paddy is 3264 kg per hectare in India against world's average productivity of 4374 kg per hectare. The major reasons for less productivity of paddy in India is due to small and fragmented land holdings, lack of irrigation facilities, improper use of nutrients and pest management, low replacement rate of seed, low mechanization etc. For increasing the productivity and production of rice in the country and consequent improving in global trade, Government of India has been implementing several crop development programmes such as National food Security Mission – Rice (NFSM-Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas under Macro Management of Agriculture, Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India - a sub scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Besides, Indian council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also undertakes research programmes to increase the production and productivity of rice through development of high yielding varieties and hybrids having high yield potential and tolerance to abiotic and biotic stresses.