

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:149

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012

SOWN AREA OF CROPS

Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Shekhar Shri Neeraj

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the decline in the sown area of major crops reported in various parts of the country during the current year as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, State and crop-wise along with the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether there is a big gap between production and requirement of foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the funds and incentives given for increasing the crop area and production under the various schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government including the use of modern technology to boost foodgrain production?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 149 DUE FOR REPLY ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2012.

(a): State-wise details of area coverage under major kharif crops during the current year as compared to last year are given in Annexure-I. Major decline in area coverage has been under rice, coarse cereals and pulses in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal on account of delayed/deficient rainfall during monsoon season.

(b) & (c): The estimated production of 257.44 million tonnes of foodgrains in the country during 2011-12 is significantly higher than the demand of 234.26 million tonnes projected by Working Group of Planning Commission. However, as compared to projected demand of 19.91 million tonnes of pulses and 53.39 million tonnes of oilseeds for 2011-12, their estimated production has been lower at 17.21 million tonnes and 30.01 million tonnes respectively. The gap between the production and demand of pulses and oilseeds/edible oils is met through imports.

(d): In order to increase area coverage and production of agricultural crops in the country, Government of India has been implementing several Crop Development Schemes/Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM), etc. Under these schemes, funds are provided to States for implementation of State specific agricultural strategies including incentives to farmers for production/use of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), farm mechanization etc. The States are also provided support for creation of agricultural infrastructure for optimal use of water and other natural resources. Further, the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of agricultural crops have also been increased considerably to ensure remunerative price to farmers. State-wise details of funds allocated under the major Crop Development Schemes/Programmes during the last three years and the current year i.e. 2009-10 to 2012-13 are given at Annexure-II.

(e): Government has taken several measures to promote use of modern technology including development of high yielding, pest/disease tolerant crop varieties/hybrids with tolerance to common abiotic stresses such as fluctuations in temperature, soil/water salinity, soil acidity, etc. Early maturing crop varieties with higher nutrient and water use efficiency have also been developed. Government is also promoting adoption of resource conservation technologies for climate resilient agriculture and innovative extension approaches to ensure access to modern technologies including mechanization to small and marginal farmers.