

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1175
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013
SALT TOLERANT CROPS
Singh Chaudhary Lal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI) has developed any salt tolerant crops varieties for cultivation in the salinity affected areas of the country during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check soil salinity problem in various parts of the country, especially in coastal areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI) has developed one salt tolerant variety of rice (CSR 43) and two salt tolerant varieties of wheat (KRL 210 and KRL 213) during the last three years.

(c) The Government is implementing the centrally sponsored scheme on Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acid Soils (RADAS) for reclamation of salt affected soil. Under this scheme, since inception till the end of XI Plan, an area of 8.43 lakh hectares has been developed. Bio-engineering measures are also taken up by states for mitigating salinity ingress in coastal areas. Breeder and truthfully labelled seeds of salt tolerant varieties of rice, wheat and mustard are also distributed in states having soil salinity problem, including coastal areas.