

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:578  
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013  
RESEARCH ON PULSES  
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

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

- (a) the details of the projects undertaken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to strengthen the basic research in pulses for development of location-specific pulses in the country during each of the last three years and the achievements made thereunder, so far;
- (b) the achievements of the other schemes/programmes being undertaken by the Union Government to increase the yield of pulses in the country; and
- (c) the benefits accrued/likely to accrue to the farmers from these researches/ schemes/programmes?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 578 TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/05/2013 REGARDING "RESEARCH ON PULSES"

(a) Through its on-going plan projects viz. Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), Kanpur and All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) on Chickpea, Pigeonpea, MULLaRP (Mung bean Urd bean, Lentil, Lathyrus, Rajmash and Field pea) and Arid Legume, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) undertake basic and strategic research work on pulses for development of location-specific, climate resilient crop varieties and production and protection technologies for pulses in the country. Besides, two special projects on "Development of pod borer resistant transgenic in pigeonpea and chickpea" and "Development of Mungbean Yellow Mosaic Virus resistant transgenic legumes" are also being carried out at IIPR to overcome 20-30 per cent yield losses that occur due to insect-pest and disease.

As a result of intensive efforts of research, 61 high yielding varieties of pulses have been released during the last three years (Annexure-I). In addition, 4517 tonnes breeder seeds of high yielding varieties of pulses were produced during 2009-10 to 2011-12 to ensure maintenance of quality seed-chain for effective distribution and benefits to the pulse growing farmers.

(b) In order to increase production of pulses, Government has been implementing several Crop Development Schemes/Programmes such as National Food Security Mission-Pulses (NFSM-Pulses), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM), etc. In addition, a new programme "Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P)" has been started under NFSM since 2010-11 to take up active propagation of key technologies in the form of block demonstrations for improving productivity of pulses. Further, a Special Plan to achieve more than 19 million tonnes of pulse production during 2012-13 has also been initiated by the Government.

As a result, the total production of pulses in India has increased from stagnating level of 14.5 million tonnes over the past 15 years to 18.24 million tonnes in 2010-11, 17.1 million tonnes in 2011-12 and estimated production of 17.6 million tonnes in 2012-13. The productivity has also increased from 589 kg/ha to 694 kg/ha during this period.

(c) ICAR research projects on pulses are regularly generating location-specific improved varieties and technologies for enhancing productivity of pulses, whereas the schemes/ programmes of the Union Government are financially supporting for their adoption in the farmers' fields.

Popularization of short duration climate resilient varieties of pulses developed by ICAR as catch crop / intercrop in cereal based cropping system will help improve soil health by enriching organic nitrogen status, reducing demand for chemical fertilizers, enhancing soil micro-flora and thus ensuring long term sustainability of the cropping systems. The enhanced productivity in pulses due to adoption of improved technologies helps in increasing pulse production and availability of vegetable protein diet for large population of the country to overcome protein malnutrition.