

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:571

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013

CULTIVATION OF CASH CROPS

Joshi Shri Mahesh;Pakkirappa Shri S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cultivation of cash crops has become more remunerative in comparison to major food crops;
- (b) if so, whether farmers in some parts of the country are shifting to cash crops cultivation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the increasing trends towards cultivation of cash crops has led to a stagnation in the production of essential food crops in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage the farmers for taking up food crops cultivation to meet the increasing demand and also to provide better remunerative price to the farmers cultivating food crops?

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. 571 DUE FOR REPLY ON 07th MAY, 2013.

(a): Profitability of crops is predominantly influenced by market prices, productivity and cost of cultivation. As per the report of the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP), the net profitability is 36 % in wheat, 23 % in gram, 19.3 % in paddy and 33.1 % in tur, as against 27 %, 13.5 % and 61.7% in cotton, jute and sugarcane respectively.

(b) & (c): As per official estimates, area under cotton and sugarcane during 2006-07 to 2012-13 has increased at an average annual growth rate of 4.52 per cent and 0.09 per cent respectively. Major shifts in area under cotton in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan and under sugarcane in Bihar and Karnataka have been reported. Despite marginal growth in area under wheat and pulses, the overall area under food grains has registered a decline at an annual average rate of 0.34 per cent during the above period, particularly on account of decrease in foodgrains area in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu and West Bengal.

(d): There is no stagnation in foodgrain production in the country. Foodgrains production has increased from 217.28 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 255.36 million tonnes during 2012-13 (3rd advance estimates).

(e): In order to increase the production and productivity of agricultural crops in the country on sustainable basis, Government of India has been implementing several Crop Development Schemes/Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), 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 promoting 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 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 abiotic stresses such as fluctuations in temperature, soil/water salinity, soil acidity, etc. Government is also promoting adoption of resource conservation technologies for climate resilient agriculture and innovative extension approaches to ensure access of small and marginal farmers to modern technologies including mechanization.

Government also fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for major agricultural crops every year with a view to ensure that growers get remunerative prices for their produce.