

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:120

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2013

AVAILABILITY OF FOODGRAINS

Mahto Shri Baidyanath Prasad;Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita availability of rice, wheat and other major foodgrains has declined in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year/State/ UT-wise;

(c) whether some rice and wheat producing States are facing problems in increasing the production of these crops and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has launched any scheme to promote modern technologies to improve the productivity of rice and wheat and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure adequate per capita availability of these food crops in the country?

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. 120 DUE FOR REPLY ON 13TH AUGUST, 2013.

(a) & (b): A statement indicating the per capita net availability of rice, wheat and foodgrains since 2010 as compared to the normative requirement of consumption of 402 grams of foodgrains per day assessed by National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, is given below:

(Grams per day)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Foodgrains
2010	182.0	168.2	437.1
2011	181.5	163.5	453.6
2012 (P)	190.1	158.1	449.9

P: Provisional

Net availability = Gross production (-) seed, feed & wastage (-) exports (+) imports, (+/-) change in stocks Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics

(c) to (e): The major issues in regard to increasing the production & productivity of foodgrains in the country include development of infrastructure in rainfed areas, challenges of various biotic and abiotic stresses, improving access to improved technologies & other critical inputs etc.

Government implements various programmes/schemes viz. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) etc. with the objective of increasing production and productivity of rice, wheat and other crops. In addition, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAU) have developed a number of improved varieties/hybrids of foodgrain crops to enhance production and productivity of food crops.

Government has also taken steps for increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, extension, marketing etc. to improve agricultural production and productivity. Other measures taken by the Government include enhancement of minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, interest subvention on crop loans etc.