

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:387  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013  
DEMAND OF PULSES  
Patel Shri Bal Kumar

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the demand for pulses has been increasing rapidly due to preference for enhanced protein requirement in food; and  
(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to meet the increasing requirement of pulses?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): The enhanced protein requirement in food is met through several sources such as milk and products thereof, egg, fish and meat, and pulses. As per the NSS 68th Round(July, 2011- June, 2012), Key Indicators of Household Consumer Expenditure in India, the overall demand for the protein items of milk, egg, fish and meat have increased during 2004-05 to 2011-12. However, during this period, the overall demand for pulses has been fluctuating.

For increasing the production and productivity of pulses in the country, several measures are implementation. These, inter alia, include National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Pulses which is under implementation in 468 districts of 16 States. Under the programme, assistance is provided for seed distribution, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) , Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Weedicides, Improved farm implements, assistance for increased water use efficiency through distribution of sprinklers, pipeline for carrying water to the fields and pumpsets, etc. Besides, training of farmers and extension workers are also organized for transfer of latest production technology. In addition, Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) is also implemented under NFSM-Pulses for Demonstrations of Production and Protection Technologies on Village Level Compact Blocks for enhanced production of pulses as well as motivating farmers.