

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:300  
ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014  
FOODGRAINS PRODUCTION  
Kumar Shri P.;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

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

- (a) whether the production of foodgrains is not keeping pace with the increasing population in the country thereby leading to import of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details of imports of foodgrains during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether the productivity level of foodgrains, oilseeds, pulses and other cereals in the country is lagging behind as compared to the developed countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the productivity of these 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. 300 DUE FOR REPLY ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2014.

(a) & (b): No, Madam. As against the average annual growth rate of 1.32% in the projected population (based on Population Census 2001), the average growth in foodgrain production in the country during the last three years i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13 has been significantly higher at 5.77%. The country now produces sufficient foodgrains to meet its requirements leaving significant surpluses for export. The details of imports of major foodgrain crops in the country during the last three years are as under:

Crop	Quantity Imported ('000 Tonnes)		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Rice	0.22	1.06	0.71
Wheat	185.28	0.02	2.9
Other Cereals/	30.68	15.36	45.57
Coarse Cereals			
Pulses	2698.66	3364.8	3839.3

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S).

(c) & (d): As per Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) data, the details of productivity of main foodgrain crops (rice and wheat), oilseeds, pulses and other cereals (coarse cereals) in India vis-à-vis major developed countries are as under:-

Country	Yield (Kg/Hectare)			
	Rice	Wheat	Other Cereals	Total Oil-Crops
	Cereals	Pulses	(Primary)	
Australia	8910	2151	2315	1677 528
Canada	NA	2888	4813	1893 659
China	6744	4995	5652	1432 666
Japan	5391	4100	1786	2133 325
India	2462	3117	1617	789 1168
France	5952	7599	7435	3968 1138
United Kingdom	NA	6657	5443	3466 1258

#As per official estimates released by M/o Agriculture, NA: Not available

Major factors responsible for low productivity of agricultural crops in the country as compared to developed countries are erratic rainfall, inadequate irrigation facilities, low consumption of farm inputs like fertilizers, quality seeds and pesticides, low use of farm machinery, low adoption of improved package of practices, adverse weather/temperature conditions etc. Further, as against the crop duration of 180-210 days under temperate climate in developed countries, the crop duration in India is only 80-110 days.

(e): Government has taken several steps to revitalize the agriculture sector on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, extension, developing marketing infrastructure, etc. Government has taken several measures to promote use of advanced methods and modern technology including development of high yielding, pest/disease tolerant crop varieties/hybrids with tolerance to common abiotic stresses such as fluctuations in temperature, soil/water salinity, soil acidity, etc. Early maturing crop varieties with higher nutrient and water use efficiency have also been developed. Further, Government is promoting adoption of resource conservation technologies for climate resilient agriculture and innovative extension approaches to ensure access to modern technologies including mechanization to small and marginal farmers.

Various programmes/schemes for development of agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. The focus of Government is primarily on expansion of farm income, creation of non-farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation and forging appropriate backward and forward linkages. Other measures taken by the Government include enhancement in minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans, etc.