

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3955
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009
DROUGHT RESISTANT CROPS
Lal Shri Kirodi

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Agricultural Universities/ICAR have developed many drought resistant crops/seeds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to popularise the use of such seeds?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) ICAR crop institutes and SAUs take up suitable research programmes to identify drought resistance sources and utilise those for breeding for drought resistance. Accordingly, many varieties/hybrids have been developed/released in various crops for cultivation in drought prone areas. These include, three in wheat, three in rice, seven in maize, four in sorghum, eight in pearl millet, six in small millets, seven in forage crops, thirty nine in oil seed and pulses, twenty three in cotton, thirty two in sugarcane, three in jute and five in tobacco (Annexure-I).

(c) Frontline demonstrations are taken up in order to evaluate and demonstrate the production potential of improved varieties on the farmers' fields in various states.