

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:893  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009  
AREA UNDER PULSES CULTIVATION  
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the area under pulses cultivation across the country, State-wise;
- (b) the estimated area likely to come under pulses cultivation during the Kharif seasons, 2009-10;
- (c) whether only 50 per cent of the area under pulses cultivation have been utilized in the current year and is likely to result in shortage in the production of pulses;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to meet the scarcity?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The State-wise details of normal area under pulses cultivation (Rabi and Kharif) alongwith estimated area under pulses during Kharif, 2009-10 are given in the Annexure.

(c) to (e): As compared to normal area of 11.17 million hectares under kharif pulses, the estimated area under pulses cultivation during kharif 2009-10 has been 10.11 million hectares i.e. a decline of about 9.49%. As against normal production of 5.39 million tonnes of kharif pulses in the country, the production during kharif 2009-10 is estimated at 4.42 million tonnes i.e. a decline of 0.97 million tonnes. The production of pulses during the current kharif season is estimated to be lower than last year on account of shortfall in area and loss of productivity due to delayed/deficit monsoon in various parts of the country.

In order to increase production and productivity of pulses in the country, the Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) from 1.4.2004 in 14 major pulse growing States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Based on the experience in the implementation of ISOPOM during 10th Plan Period, necessary modifications in respect of norms and pattern of assistance, inclusion of new components etc. have been made for implementation of the scheme during the 11th Plan Period.

However, there are some major constraints in increasing the production and productivity of pulses in the country which are given below:-

- # The pulses are genetically low yielding and less input responsive as compared to other cereals and oilseeds.
- # The cultivation of pulses continues to be done on marginal and sub-marginal lands under rainfed conditions by small and marginal farmers, whose capacity for input use is quite low.
- # Varietal break-through has been a major constraint in achieving higher level of productivity.
- # No hybrid of pulses other pigeon-pea is available. Nor is there a genetically modified pulse variety/hybrid, which could enhance productivity.
- # The pulses are more prone to pests and diseases.

Despite various measures, the production of pulses in the country is lower than its requirement and the shortfall is met through imports.