

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:167

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AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of production of staple agricultural crops in the country during each of the last three years, current year, State and crop-wise;
- (b) whether there is gap between demand and supply of foodgrains and import of foodgrains is being done to feed the population of the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the production and productivity of foodgrains is lagging behind in comparison to the developed countries, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to undertake research and development to improve seed varieties of different food crops to get higher production and productivity in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a): State-wise details of production of staple agricultural crops (foodgrains) in the country during the last three years and current year i.e. 2011-12 to 2014-15 are given in Annexure-I.

(b): As per 2nd Advance Estimates for 2014-15, total foodgrains production in the country is estimated at 257.07 million tonnes which is in excess of the projected demand of 249 million tonnes for the year. However, total production of pulses in the country is short of their requirement and the gap is met through imports.

(c): According to data maintain by Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO), details of production and productivity of major foodgrains crops in the India vis-À-vis major developed countries of the World are given in Annexure-II. Productivity of foodgrain crops in India is generally lower than that of most of developed countries. 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.

(d) & (e): In order to increase productivity and production of agricultural crops in the country, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has research and development programmes in different food crops undertaken by 26 commodity/theme based Research Institutions and 33 All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) & All India Network Projects (AINPs) to develop location-specific crop varieties and matching technologies as per different agro-ecological needs. To enhance productivity, the crop improvement programmes give major emphasis on development of new crop varieties/hybrids with improved quality and tolerance/resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses.