

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4520
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015
CULTIVATION OF FOOD CROPS
Karandlaje Km. Shobha;Mishra Shri Anoop

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a gradual shift from cultivation of food crops to cultivation of fruits, vegetables and oilseeds, etc., in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to encourage the cultivation of cash crops on a large scale across the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the benefits likely to be accrued to the farmers in improving their financial; and
- (e) whether the usage of insecticides/ pesticides is ineffective in controlling of crop diseases in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Depending on the rainfall situations, weather and temperature conditions, availability of water in reservoirs, irrigation facilities and inter-crop shift in the area coverage on account of comparative profitability of other competing crops, the area under foodgrains and oilseeds in the country 2009-10 onwards has been fluctuating. However, the overall area under fruits and vegetables in the country during the above period has been increasing. Increase in area under fruits and vegetables has been mainly on account of higher profitability of these crops.

Details of area coverage under foodgrains, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables during 2009-10 to 2014-15 are as under:

Crops	Area (Lakh Hectare)					
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Foodgrains	1213.34	1266.71	1247.55	1207.76	1250.40	1208.93
Oilseeds	259.59	272.24	263.08	264.84	280.51	259.99
Fruits	63.29	63.83	67.04	69.82	72.16	73.42#
Vegetables	79.85	84.95	89.90	92.05	93.96	93.55#

As per 2nd Advance Estimates, # Provisional.

(c) & (d): In order to promote cultivation of various agricultural crops in the country, the Government of India is implementing through State Governments, a number of Crop Development Schemes/ Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), etc.

With special focus on enhancing production and productivity of cash crops such as; cotton, jute and sugarcane, Government is implementing NFSM-Commercial Crops since 2014-15. Under this scheme, thrust has been given on transfer of technology through front line demonstrations and training to extend benefits to the farmers and improving their financial conditions.

Further, to improve profitability of crops and financial conditions of farmers by achieving higher agricultural productivity, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting basic and strategic research relating to crop improvement, production and protection technologies suitable to different situations including development of location-specific varieties/hybrids and technologies.

(e): Pesticides are designated to have deleterious effect on target pests; whether they are insects, diseases or nematodes that damage crops, or weeds that compete with crops. However, pesticides are effective against crop pests and diseases when applied in accordance with the conditions of registration related to their usage. If pesticides are not applied correctly, pests are not effectively controlled, resulting in development of resistance and outbreak of secondary pests.