

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:488
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
FARM/CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST
Reddy Shri Midhun

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the existing mechanism to forecast and estimate production of various crops in the country;
- (b) whether the Government in collaboration with the Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO), has developed a module/programme to forecast farm/crop production accurately and if so, the details thereof including the methodology drawn for the purpose;
- (c) the details of forecast of major crops estimated and reported during 2014-15 on the basis of the said programme, crop and season-wise;
- (d) the funds allocated/spent for the purpose during the said period; and
- (e) the details of likely benefits of crop production estimation/forecast to the planners and policy makers for agricultural development and for other related issues?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(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. 488 DUE FOR REPLY ON 28TH APRIL, 2015.

(a): The Ministry of Agriculture has a well established system of regular assessment of production of major agricultural crops in the country on the basis of reports on crop-wise area, production and yield received from State Agricultural Statistics Authorities (SASAs) in various States/UTs. However, to supplement efforts of States/UTs in compilation of agricultural estimates, Government of India provides them financial support under the sub-scheme on Improvement of Agricultural Statistics (IAS) comprising of three components viz. Timely Reporting Scheme (TRS), Establishment of an Agency for Reporting of Agricultural Statistics (EARAS) and Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS). The crop-wise estimates are prepared by States/ UTs on the basis of area enumeration in a sample of about 20% villages selected in such a manner that over a period of 5 years all the villages of a State/UT are covered. Yield assessment is done through Crop Cutting Ex- periments (CCEs) conducted in a sub-sample of the villages selected for area enumeration. The area enumeration and CCEs are generally done by the field functionaries of State Revenue/Agriculture Departments. Under the ICS Scheme, States/UTs are provided financial support for sample check of area enumeration and CCEs to ensure quality of primary data collected by them.

Based upon the data received from States/UTs, during an Agricultural Year (July to June), the Directorate of Economics & Statistics in the Ministry of Agriculture prepares at all-India level four Advance Estimates followed by the final estimates of area, production and yield of major agricultural crops in the country. First Advance Estimates of all-India level production of major agricultural crops are released in the month of September followed by second, third and fourth Advance Estimates released respectively in February, April and July of next calendar year. Final Estimates are released along with second Advance Estimates for the subsequent agricultural year. To ensure quality of estimates, the data received from States/UTs are scrutinized on the basis of alternative sources of information on area, production and yield, rainfall conditions, past trends of crop-wise area, production and yield in the respective States and commodity-wise price trends etc.

(b): Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) has been implementing since 2007 a scheme called "Forecasting Agricultural output using Space Agro-meteorology and Land based observations (FASAL)". Under the above scheme, Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad under Indian Space and Research Organization (ISRO) in the Department of Space, which is one of the partner organizations for its implementation has been entrusted with the task of development of methodology for pre-harvest crop area, yield and production forecast at national/state/district level by using the remote sensing technology. The Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC), established under DAC in 2012, has been releasing forecasts in respect of eight crops based upon the remote sensing methodology developed by SAC, Ahmedabad so far. The forecasts in respect of 8 crops given by MNCFC serve as important inputs for validation of crop-wise estimates of area production and yield received from States/UTs.

(c): The season-wise details of forecast of major agricultural crops for 2014-15 prepared by MNCFC on the basis of remote sensing methodology under FASAL scheme are given in the Annexure.

(d): During 2014-15, an amount of Rs.574.30 lakh was released to concerned organizations for implementation of remote sensing technology based component of FASAL scheme.

(e): Timely availability of reliable crop production forecast is very important for planning and allocation of resources to different sectors of agriculture as well as for efficient and timely decisions with respect to procurement, storage, public distribution, import, export, price policy and compilation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), etc.