

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5642

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Adsul Shri Anandrao ;Patil Shri Shivaji Adhalrao;Yadav Shri Dharmendra;Yeddyurappa Shri B. S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are numerous gaps in agricultural statistics which are hampering agricultural planning;
- (b) if so, whether quick reliable estimates at the National and State level are required for agricultural planning;
- (c) whether an independent source of high quality data is vital for improving the quality of agricultural statistics across the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Vaidyanathan Committee has recommended to setting up a National Centre for Crop Statistics for providing reliable quick estimates at the National and State level; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government for improving the quality of agricultural statistics?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Timely availability of reliable estimates of area production and yield of major agricultural crops is extremely important for macro level agricultural planning. However, dis-aggregated agricultural estimates are also required for agricultural planning at district and lower level of administrative hierarchy.

In the existing system, Government of India prepares all-India estimates of major agricultural crops on the basis of data received from State Agricultural Statistics Authorities (SASAs) in various States/UTs. The State Governments prepare their estimates on the basis of area enumeration in a sample of 20% villages and yield assessment through Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) conducted in a sub-sample of the villages selected for area enumeration. Field work of area enumeration and CCEs in the States/UTs are normally carried out by the staff of Department of Revenue/Agriculture.

An Expert Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan observed that due to multiple responsibilities assigned to the primary worker and heavy workload on account of increasing number of CCEs, the quality of primary data and, consequently, the State/National level estimates of area, production and yield of crops has deteriorated.

(c): Presently, the responsibility for furnishing crop-wise agricultural estimates in the States/UTs rests either with State Department of Agriculture/Revenue or Directorate of Economics & Statistics designated as SASA, and the work is assigned to dedicated statistical personnel. However, the quality of agricultural estimates highly depends on the reliability of primary data collected by field staff, irrespective of the fact that the overall responsibility of compilation and preparation of district/State level estimates lies with the State Governments or an Independent Agency.

(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. In order to assess the feasibility of implementation of recommendations of Vaidyanathan Committee, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) suggested to conduct a Pilot Study which has been assigned to Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI), New Delhi.