

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:298

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015

Sugarcane Production

Godse Shri Hemant Tukaram;Singh Shri Hukum

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the sugarcane production reported in each State during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether large share of sugarcane crop in the country have been damaged due to faltering monsoon/drought and farmers are forced to feed withered cane to their cattle, during the said period;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether the farmers are refraining from the cultivation of sugarcane due to scarcity of water in various parts of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken to incentivise the sugarcane farmers in the country to improve sugarcane production?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) to (c): State-wise details of production of sugarcane during last three years and the current year i.e. 2012-13 to 2015-16 are given in the Annexure. It is observed that despite delayed/deficient monsoon rainfall in various parts of the country leading to overall deficiency of 14% in the monsoon rainfall, as per First Advance Estimates for 2015-16, the production of sugarcane is expected to be lower than the last year by only about 5%. There are no reports of severe damage to the crop due to drought from any major sugarcane producing State of the country.

(d) & (e): As per First Advance Estimates for 2015-16, the decline in area coverage under sugarcane as compared to last year has been negligible (less than 1%). The above decline in the area under sugarcane is not specifically due to scarcity of water but due to other reasons such as more remunerative crop diversification options available to farmers.

To increase production and productivity of Sugarcane in the country, Government has been implementing Sugarcane Development Programme under National Food Security
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Mission- Commercial Crops (NFSM-CC). Under the scheme, thrust has been given on transfer of technology through Frontline Demonstration and training to farmers.

Further, to protect and equip farmers against drought like situations, the Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow, Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore and All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on sugarcane under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have developed various drought tolerant / stress tolerant varieties of seeds. Water use efficient irrigation techniques like drip irrigation, techniques like trash mulching for conserving moisture etc., are being advocated. Educating the farmers for adopting modern techniques of water conservation in the production of sugarcane is being undertaken by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).