

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:888

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016

Sown Area of Crops

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

- (a) whether sown area of Rabi crops like pulses, oilseeds and wheat is likely to significantly decline in the current harvest seasons as compared to that of the last year due to low residual soil moisture, warm/extreme weather conditions and heavy hailstorm in some parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the estimated production of these crops and estimated losses to the farmers, State-wise;
- (c) the corrective actions taken by the Government to tide over the crisis especially to increase the sown area of these crops;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to extend financial support to the farmers who are likely to be affected by lower production of crops and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to fill the gap between demand and supply of rabi crops in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

श्री अशोक शंकरराव आशुतोष गवित हेना विजयकुमार गुप्ता श्री सुधेर जयवर्धन डॉ. जयकुमार कटारिया श्री रतन लाल कर्तिकार श्री गजानन चंद्रकान्त महादिक श्री धनंजय भिमराव महातो श्री बिद्युत बारन ओवैसी श्री आसदुद्दीन पटिल श्री विजयसिंह मोहिते राधाकृष्णन श्री टी. राई श्री नीत्यानंद एस. आर. श्री विजय कुमार साठव श्री राजीव शंकरराव सिंग श्री कुंवर हरीबंश सुले सौ. सुप्रिया सदानंद ( श्री मोहनभाई कुंदरिया )

(a) & (b): As per Second Advance Estimates for 2015-16, area coverage under most of the rabi crops during 2015-16 has been lower than that in 2014-15 due to low residual moisture, warm/extreme weather conditions etc. This has impacted production of above crops in the country and consequent losses to farmers. Details of losses to individual farmers are maintained by State Governments for settlement of Insurance claims etc. State-wise details of area coverage and production of rabi crops during 2014-15 and 2015-16 are given at the Annexure.

(c) & (d): In order to tide over the crisis and increase the sown area of rabi crops, following steps have been taken by the Government:-

(i) Government of India has enhanced ceiling on seed subsidy for rice, pulses and coarse cereals for drought notified districts covered under NFSM and BGREI by 50% which was valid up to 31.12.2015 for resow/sow of alternate crops.

(ii) Under NFSM, financial assistance is being provided for demonstrations of the improved package of practices, distribution of newer varieties seed, water saving devices for protective irrigation to increase area under rabi crops.

(iii) A programme on Additional Area coverage for increasing pulses production during Rabi/Summer is being implemented in 24 NFSM-Pulses States including North Eastern States and hill States except in Meghalaya to increase production of rabi/summer pulses through area expansion and productivity enhancement.

(iv) A programme on Additional Area Coverage for increasing coarse cereals production during rabi/summer introduced from the year 2015-16 is being implemented in North Eastern States except in Meghalaya for enhancing area coverage to increase production of rabi/summer coarse cereals.

(v) An additional amount of Rs.197.69 crores as central share has been released to States for increasing area under pulses and coarse cereals in rabi and summer season under Additional Area Coverage programme of pulses and coarse cereals.

(vi) At least 30% of the cluster demonstrations under NFSM and BGREI are being conducted by adopting cropping system approach to utilize paddy fallow area for pulses cultivation.

(e): In order to boost agricultural production including that of rabi crops and fill the gap between their demand and supply in the country, the Government of India is implementing through State Governments, several Crop Development Schemes/ Programmes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) etc.

Under these Schemes/Programmes, funds are provided to States for implementation of State-specific agricultural strategies including incentives to farmers for use of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), farm mechanization, etc. The States are also provided support for creation of agricultural infrastructure for optimal use of water and other natural resources.