

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2651

ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016

Sowing of Coarse Cereals

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

- (a) whether the sowing of coarse cereals has declined in the last one year compared to the preceding three years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to correct the situation;
- (c) whether the Government has announced incentives for coarse cereals cultivation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to boost the production of coarse cereals?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): Yes, Madam. The area coverage under coarse cereals during the last year, i.e. 2015-16 has been lower as compared to their area during the preceding three years, i.e., 2012-13 to 2014-15. The decline in the area of coarse cereals during the last year has been mainly on account of moisture stress due to deficit/deficient rainfall in August and September, 2015 in several parts of the country including some important coarse grains producing States.

The details of area coverage under coarse cereals during last three years and current year i.e. 2012-13 to 2015-16 are given as under:-

Year Area (in lakh hectare)

2012-13 247.62

2013-14 252.20

2014-15 251.70

2015-16* 236.34

* As per Second Advance Estimates

(b) to (d): In order to promote cultivation of coarse cereals in the country, the Government of India is implementing since 2014-15, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Coarse Cereals". NFSM- Coarse Cereals being implemented in 265 districts of 28 States including North-Eastern and Hill States aims to increase production of coarse cereals in the country by 3 million tonnes by the end of 12th Plan period i.e. 2016-17. The programme is focused on organization of cluster demonstrations on improved package of technologies and distribution of quality seeds of new varieties/hybrids. Under the programme, assistance is being provided at the rate of Rs.5000/- per hectare for demonstrations of improved packages of technologies, Rs.1500/- per quintal for distribution of seeds of high yielding varieties and Rs.5000/- per quintal for hybrid seeds.

The ICAR has also been constantly striving through National Agricultural Research System for developing high yielding, pest/disease resistant maize hybrids/varieties which are suitable for different agro-climatic conditions in the country.

(e): To encourage farmers to grow coarse cereals by ensuring remunerative prices, the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of coarse cereals have also been increased over the years.
