

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1597

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016

Availability of Pulses

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

- (a) the consumption and availability of pulses in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to promote cultivation of several varieties of pulses such as dun peas, green lentils and yellow peas for addressing the issue of shortage and high prices of arhar dal and demand for cheaper pulses in the market and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the details of the projects undertaken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other institutes for strengthening basic research in the development of pulses grown in specific regions of the country and the achievements thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether the Government has drawn up a five year roadmap to increase the production of pulses in the country and if so, the details thereof and the measures taken/being taken by the Government to implement the roadmap; and

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- (e) the achievements of the other schemes/programmes being run by the Government to increase the production of pulses in the country along with the benefits derived/likely to be derived by the farmers therefrom?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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- (a): Production and consumption/availability of pulses in the country during each of the last three years is as under:  
(Lakh tonnes)

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Production	183.40	192.50	171.50
Import	40.19	31.77	45.85
Export	2.03	3.46	2.22
Availability	221.56	220.81	215.13

- (b): The high yielding varieties as developed by National Agriculture Research System (NARS) of pulses for different agro-ecologies of the country are being promoted under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for enhancing production and productivity of pulses. ICAR has developed a lentil variety (Pant L-6) of yellow cotyledon and dun seeded fieldpea variety (RFP 2009-1).

(c): ICAR is continuously engaged in basic and strategic research on pulses at Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur and coordinates applied research through four All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) on different pulses (chickpea, pigeonpea, mungbean, uradbean, lentil, lathyrus, rajmash, fieldpea, clusterbean, mothbean, horsegram and cowpea) in association with the State Agriculture Universities for developing new high yielding varieties of pulses and location specific improved production technologies. During the last five years (2011-15), ICAR has released 59 high yielding varieties of different pulses that have fair degree of tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses.

- (d) & (e): Yes. Government has drawn a five year road map to increase the production of pulses in the country through (i) productivity enhancement by promoting seed of newer varieties, providing life saving irrigation in pulses districts, ensuring availability of critical inputs, mechanization of farm operations in pulses and (ii) area expansion by promoting pulses as intercrop, catch crop, targeting rice and cultivation on rice bunds/farm bunds. Specific initiatives like research strategy for hybridization and reducing the crop duration and increasing per day productivity are the major steps of the road map to increase the pulses production.

Pulses production has increased from 14.20 million tonnes during 2006-07 (pre-NFSM year) to 17.06 million tonnes ( 3rd advance

estimate) during 2015-16. Now, farmers derived the benefits from NFSM through cultivation of new varieties of pulses, adopting scientific crop production technologies, Integrated Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management techniques, farm implements and irrigation devices and cropping system based trainings..

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