

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2607

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014

PRODUCTION OF MAIZE

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether maize is being produced in the country including Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance to the farmers to encourage the cultivation of maize in the country including Bihar;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to set up maize based centres/industries in the bordering areas of Bihar and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. State-wise details of production of maize in the country including Bihar during last three years, i.e. 2011-12 to 2013-14 are given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d): From 2014-15, the Government of India is implementing through State Governments including Bihar, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) – Coarse Cereals which aims to increase the production of coarse Cereals (including maize) in the country by 3 million tonnes by the end of 12th Plan period i.e. 2016-17. During the current year, NFSM-Coarse cereals is being implemented in 233 districts of 28 States including 11 districts in Bihar. Under the above scheme, 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. In Bihar, an amount of Rs. 550.98 lakh has been allocated under NFSM Coarse Cereals (Maize) for 2014-15.

(e): During 12th Five Year Plan, the Government of India is implementing through State/UT Governments including Bihar, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP)'. Under NMFP, the assistance is, inter-alia, provided for technology upgradation, setting up/modernization of Food Processing Units and creating Primary Processing Centres/Collection Centres in Rural Areas.

Under the above scheme, all States/UTs including Bihar have been empowered to sanction and release grants-in-aid to the eligible beneficiaries. The States/UTs also have flexibility in identifying sectors for special focus and selection of location of projects as well as beneficiaries to harness the potential of value addition by using locally grown raw material for setting up of food processing industries.