

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5444

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003

PRODUCTION OF CEREALS, PULSES, OILSEEDS, COTTON

DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimate production of cereals, pulses, oilseeds and cotton during the current year;

(b) the details of estimated shortfall or surplus; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to dispose of the surplus or to meet with the shortfall?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): The estimated production of cereals pulses, oilseeds and cotton in the country during 2002-03 and its shortfall vis-Ã -vis the production during 2001-02 is given in the statement below:

(Million Tonnes)

Crop 2001-02 2002-03\$ Shortfall

Cereals	198.83	172.25	26.58
Pulses	13.19	11.81	1.38
Oilseeds#	20.46	15.57	4.89
Cotton @	10.09	8.57	1.52

\$ Third Advance Estimates as on 4.4.2003.

Includes groundnut, castorseed, sesamum, nigerseed, rapeseed & mustard, linseed, safflower, sunflower and soyabean.

@ In million bales of 170 kgs.

(c): As the stock position of cereals in the country is much above the buffer stock norm, there is no crisis due to the shortfall in production of cereals. Pulses and edible oils are covered under the Open General Licence (OGL)and their import is allowed freely. This would help bridge the gap between demand and production of pulses and edible oils.

The agricultural production in the country shows a long-term upward trend, albeit with fluctuations due to weather aberrations. However, in order to further improve the performance of the agriculture sector, the Government have taken a number of initiatives such as promotion of watershed development programmes, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, NationalAgricultural Insurance Scheme etc.Besides, the Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price and Market Intervention Schemes.Apart from these, the Government have also adopted macro-management mode for providing assistance to the States. The Macro-Management Scheme integrates 27 schemes into one for supplementing and complementing the efforts of State Governments through work plans.This gives flexibility to States to address specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all round development of agriculture.