

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:86
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003
PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;CHARAN DAS MAHANT

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the production of foodgrains during the recent past have declined considerably;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have recently launched a special drive to increase the production of foodgrains during Rabi season;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (e) whether the State Governments have been asked to boost production of foodgrains;
- (f) if so, the reaction of State Government in this regard;
- (g) whether a number of countries including Egypt have offered to buy wheat; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 86 DUE FOR REPLY ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2003.

(a)&(b): The production of foodgrains shows a long term upward trend, albeit with fluctuations arising mainly from unfavourable weather. The trends in production of foodgrains during the last ten years may be seen from the Annexure. The figures in the Annexure show that the foodgrains production rose to about 210 million tonnes in 1999-2000 while it reached a record level of 212 million tonnes in 2001-02.

(c)&(d): Although the Government have not launched a special drive, the Ministry of Agriculture regularly organizes National Conference on Kharif Campaign before the commencement of Kharif Season and Rabi Campaign before the commencement of Rabi Season with a view to assessing the emerging agriculture scenario in different States and identifying measures/action points to boost agricultural production and productivity.

(e)&(f): The Rabi Conference held on 29th and 30th September, 2003 underlined the need for States to formulate and include the Action Plan for doubling Agriculture Production in the Work Plans. It was indicated in the Conference that the funds for this purpose would be provided under Macro Management of Agriculture. Further, in order to increase production of foodgrains, all the State Governments were requested to prepare perspective seed plans which should be updated every season/year taking into account the development of new varieties/hybrids and status of lifting of breeder seeds and their subsequent multiplication into foundation and then certified seeds. All the State Governments were requested to prepare district-wise maps indicating the name of the varieties of major crops suitable for planting in the district. In view of the importance given to organic farming in a number of States, emphasis was laid on the need for notifying indigenous certification agency, who can certify the organic produce of the farmer at a lower cost.

A number of States like Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, who attended the National Conference on Rabi Campaign, have spelled out steps taken/proposed to be taken to grow more pulses, oilseeds and horticulture crops with a view to shifting area from more water intensive to less water intensive crops. This is also expected to contribute significantly to the efforts aimed at doubling food production and farmers' income. In this context, the representatives from Bihar indicated the

need for reclamation of wasteland to bring more area under cultivation while the representative from Assam outlined the steps aimed at utilizing ground water through shallow tubewells. The representatives of States also laid emphasis on marketing, organic farming, etc. with a view to raising farm income.

(g)&(h): The Department of Food & Public Distribution offer surplus stock of wheat in the Central Pool, over and above the buffer norm of 14.3 million tonnes, to the exporters at the Open Market Sale Price (Domestic) fixed by the Government from time to time. Certain World Trade Organization (WTO) compatible expenses are, however, reimbursable to the exporters. It is for the exporters to decide the destination of the exports. So far 14.2 million tonnes of wheat has been lifted from the Central Pool for Export from 2000-01 onward.

Annexure

Annexure Referred to in reply to part (a) and (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question NO. 86 scheduled to be answered on 8.12.2003 regarding Production of Foodgrains by Shri Adhir Chowdhury and Dr. Charan Das Mahant; <<

(Million Tonnes)

Crop Season 1991-92 1992-93 1993-94 1994-95 1995-96 1996-97 1997-98 1998-99 1999-2000 2000-2001 2001-02 2002-03 \$ 2003-04 2003-04 @
IV Advance Estimates Targets Ist Advance Estimates

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Rice Kharif	66.37	65.24	70.72	72.60	67.88	71.32	72.53	72.72	77.48	72.78	79.76	66.51	78.63	75.05		
Rabi	8.31	7.62	9.58	9.21	9.10	10.41	10.01	13.36	12.20	12.20	13.32	9.21	14.37			
Total	74.68	72.86	80.30	81.81	76.98	81.73	82.54	86.08	89.68	84.98	93.08	75.72	93.00			
Wheat Rabi	55.69	57.21	59.84	65.77	62.10	69.35	66.35	71.29	76.37	69.68	71.81	69.32	78.00			
Coarse Kharif	20.80	30.60	24.30	23.81	22.66	27.11	24.76	25.05	23.22	24.86	26.92	20.13	27.05	27.96		
Cereals Rabi	5.19	5.99	6.51	6.07	6.37	7.00	5.64	6.28	7.12	6.22	7.02	6.09	6.95			
Total	25.99	36.59	30.81	29.88	29.03	34.11	30.40	31.33	30.34	31.08	33.94	26.22	34.00			
Total Kharif	4.42	5.63	5.38	4.66	4.58	5.49	4.29	5.14	4.81	4.45	4.87	3.84	6.00	5.44		
Pulses Rabi	7.60	7.19	7.93	9.38	7.73	8.76	8.68	9.77	8.60	6.62	8.32	7.47	9.00			
Total	12.02	12.82	13.31	14.04	12.31	14.25	12.97	14.91	13.41	11.07	13.19	11.31	15.00			
Total Kharif	91.59	101.47	100.40	101.07	95.12	103.92	101.58	102.91	105.51	102.09	111.55	90.48	111.68	108.45		
Food Rabi	76.79	78.01	83.86	90.43	85.30	95.52	90.68	100.70	104.29	94.72	100.47	92.09	108.32			
grains																
Total	168.38	179.48	184.26	191.50	180.42	199.44	192.26	203.61	209.80	196.81	212.02	182.57	220.00			

\$ As on 01.07.2003.

@ As on 30.09.2003