

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:194
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2003
NATIONAL PULSES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
KAMAL NATH;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has introduced National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) to increase the production of pulses;
- (b) if so, whether the production rate of the pulses has increased or decreased since the introduction of the said project;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the effective steps the Government proposes to take to boost production of pulses in the country and to keep its prices under control?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO POARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.194 DUE FOR F
ON 15.12.2003

(a) to (c): The National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) to increase the production of pulses was introduced in 1972-73. The production of pulses has increased from 99.1 lakh tonnes during 1972-73 to over 149 lakh tonnes during 1998-99. Thereafter, the production of pulses suffered a set back due to drought-like conditions in a number of pulses-producing states during the last four years. The production of pulses was 113.1 lakh tonnes during 2002-03. The prospects during the current year are encouraging.

(d): In order to boost the production of pulses in the country, the Government is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) under Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses (TMOP). Under this scheme assistance is being provided for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits and for sprinkler sets, gypsum/pyrite, rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilizing bacteria, improved farm implements, micro-nutrients, etc. In order to transfer the improved pulses production and plant protection technologies to the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations by the State Governments and frontline demonstrations by ICAR are also organized. Increase in production of pulses will help to keep the prices of pulses under control. Further, in order to meet the demand-supply gap, the pulses are being imported under Open General Licence (OGL) at low import duty of 10% to keep the prices under control.