

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:209
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2006
PERIODIC RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any periodic research in agriculture has been conducted to increase production of wheat, rice etc. in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any survey has been undertaken to monitor the impact of these researches on agricultural production; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.209 TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH MARCH, 2006 REGARDING "PERIODIC RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE".

(a) & (b): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting research to increase the production and productivity of wheat and rice in the country. All India Co-ordinated Crop Improvement Projects (AICRP) in rice and wheat started in 1965 to develop superior varieties and hybrids combining high yield and acceptable quality of grain, wider adaptability and resistance to major pests and diseases with presently 46 (Rice) and 30 (Wheat) funded Centres across the country located in the State Agricultural Universities/other Institutions.

Besides, research on wheat and rice are also being conducted at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and Vivekanand Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan, Almora. Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack and Directorate of Rice Research are engaged in Rice Research. Similarly, Directorate of Wheat Research at Karnal is engaged in Wheat Research in the country.

So far, more than 700 varieties and 23 hybrids have been developed in rice, while in wheat more than 300 varieties suitable for different agro-climatic ecologies have been evolved. Appropriate crop production and protection technologies have also been developed. Resource conservation technologies such as Zero till, Bed planting have also been developed and refined. The breeders seed of high yielding varieties of wheat & rice and parental line of hybrids have also been produced to made available the quality seeds to the farmers.

The varieties, hybrids and technologies have contributed immensely for enhancing the production and productivity of wheat and rice in the country.

Similar is the case for other crops where research is being conducted through AICRP programmes and also by concerned Institute/Directorates/National Research Centres and gains have been obtained to increase the production and productivity.

(c) & (d): Impact of agricultural research in India have been evaluated from time-to-time. These results have shown that agricultural research has been a major source of productivity growth and poverty reduction in India. The resource conservation technologies are spreading rapidly in the rice-wheat system. In case of rice, hybrids of rice are spreading rapidly covering more than 7.5 lakhs hectare with advantage of 1 to 1.5 tonnes per hectare in yield. Wheat variety such as PBW-343 alone occupies more than 5 million hectare of land contributing higher productivity. Frontline demonstration have also created great awareness about improved varieties and production technologies, facilitated availability of latest varieties to the farmers and also resulted in spread of high yielding varieties. Farmers adopting these technologies and improved seeds have been benefited by way of enhanced productivity and increased returns.