

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3646
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
SOWING AREA OF MUSTARD
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the sowing area of Mustard has declined in the country as compared to the previous year ;
- (b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise ;
- (c) Whether the decline in the area under cultivation of oilseeds including Mustard is likely to have an adverse impact on domestic availability of edible oils in the country increasing its dependence on imports; and
- (d) If so, the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of Mustard and other oilseeds in the country ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) and (b): As per the latest reports received in the weekly Crop Weather Watch Group meeting held in the Ministry on 08.12.2006, the area coverage under Rapeseed and Mustard is estimated at 63.69 lakh hectares which is 5.83 lakh hectares less than the 69.52 lakh hectares during the corresponding period last year. State-wise details are given in the Annexure.

(c): The area coverage under Rabi oilseeds is estimated at 85.22 lakh hectares (as on 08.12.2006) compared to 93.29 lakh hectares during the corresponding period last year. Sowing of Rabi oilseeds is in progress and more area coverage is envisaged. The estimated production of Rapeseed and Mustard in 2005-06 stood at 78.87 lakh tonnes, which was higher than the level of 75.93 lakh tonnes in 2004-05. However, the demand- supply gap of edible oils in the country can be met through imports.

(d) : To increase the production and productivity of oilseeds, Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)`. Under this scheme, assistance is provided on 75:25 percentage basis between the Government of India and the State Governments for production of breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed and Minikits, infrastructure development and Integrated Pest Management. Besides, front line demonstrations on improved production technologies in oilseeds are being conducted through Indian Council of Agricultural Research for transfer of technology to the farmers. A minimum price guarantee is also provided to the oilseeds growers through the price support mechanism.