

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:16  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007  
DIVERSIFICATION OF CROPS  
Jagannath Dr. M.

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the diversification from food crops to cash crops has led to decline in production of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to offset the adverse affects of crop diversification; and
- (c) the other steps taken by the Government to encourage the production of food crops?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 16 DUE FOR REPLY ON 26TH FEBRUARY, 2007.

(a): There is no decline in the production of foodgrain crops due to diversification. The average production of foodgrains during the period 2001-02 to 2005-06 was 201.55 million tonnes as compared to 200.38 million tonnes during 1996-97 to 2000-01. The variation in production of foodgrains is attributable more to fluctuations in rainfall and other climatic factors as more than 60% of the cultivated area in the country is rainfed. The diversification towards more remunerative high value crops is promoted on the basis of comparative advantage for the farmers while keeping in view the National Food Security.

(b): Question do not arise.

(c): To encourage the production of cereal crops i.e., rice, wheat and coarse grains, Integrated Cereals Development Programme is being implemented under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture in different States and Union Territories. The production of pulses and maize is also being encouraged through Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM).