

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:386

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015

Rabi and Kharif Crops

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the production and acreage of Rabi and Kharif crops including foodgrains during each of the last three years and the current year, State and crop-wise;
- (b) whether the production and acreage of Rabi and kharif crops has declined in the country during the current year as compared to that of previous years and if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether slow pace of growth in the agriculture sector is a matter of great concern for food security in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide adequate incentives to the farmers for sowing Rabi and Kharif grains and to procure their produce at higher price and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to discourage the import of agricultural produce including edible oils in the country; and
- (e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the production of Rabi and Kharif crops to meet the demands for foodgrains and other crops in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

???? ???? ????? ?????? ????????? ???? ?????? ?????? (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): State-wise details of production and acreage of major Kharif and Rabi crops

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including Foodgrains during last three years and the current year i.e. 2012-13 to 2015-16 are given in the Annexure.

Production and acreage of major crops in some States during 2014-15 and 2015-16 have been lower than the previous years on account of delayed/deficient rainfall during monsoon season and untimely rains/hailstorm during rabi season.

(c): Despite decline in the pace of growth in agriculture sector due to loss of production and productivity of major crops on account of unfavourable rainfall and weather conditions etc. during 2014-15 and 2015-16, the decline in the production of rice and wheat in the country has not been significant. Further, there is sufficient stock of foodgrains under central pool to provide enough quantity for the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other Welfare Schemes and also for making foodgrains available in open market at affordable prices. As on 1st November, 2015 there is a stock of 112.92 lakh tonnes of rice as against the stocking norm of 102.50 lakh tones and 299.06 lakh tonnes of wheat as against the stocking norm of 205.20 lakh tonnes.

(d): In order to incentivize the farmers to increase production of agriculture crops by ensuring remunerative prices for their produce, the Government of India announces every season the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities including oilseeds. While a regular mechanism for procurement of rice, wheat and coarse grains through Food Corporation of India (FCI) already exists, during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2015-16 the Government of India has also designated National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED), Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF), Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) as nodal agencies for procurement of pulses and oilseeds. Similarly, for rabi marketing season 2016-17 also, the FCI has been designated as the Central Nodal Agency for procurement of pulses and oilseeds. Further, to discourage import of edible oils in the country, the Government has also raised custom duty on crude edible oils and refined edible oils from 7.5% and 15% to 12.5% and 20% respectively with effective from 17th September, 2015.

(e): In order to boost agricultural production to meet the demand of foodgrains and other crops in the country, the Government of India is implementing through State Governments, several Crop Development Schemes/ Programmes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas

Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) etc.

Under these Schemes/Programmes, funds are provided to States for implementation of State-specific agricultural strategies including incentives to farmers for use of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), farm mechanization, etc. The States are also provided support for creation of agricultural infrastructure for optimal use of water and other natural resources.

To achieve higher productivity of agricultural crops, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is also conducting basic and strategic research relating to crop improvement, production and protection technologies suitable to different situations including development of location-specific varieties/hybrids and technologies.