

(b) what was the production of pulses in the State during the last three years, year-wise, and how it compares with other States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Andhra Pradesh is one of the major pulse producing State in the country. The National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is in operation in 22 districts of Andhra Pradesh. The production of pulses in Andhra Pradesh remained fluctuating on year to year basis depending upon the behaviour of monsoon. The production of pulses in the State of Andhra Pradesh *vis-a-vis* in other major pulse producing States in the country during the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 is given below:

State	Production ('000' tonnes)		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Andhra Pradesh	827.0	800.2	859.3
Karnataka	746.9	848.7	970.0
Madhya Pradesh	3618.8	3780.5	2083.8
Maharashtra	2254.9	2206.1	1635.7
Rajasthan	2444.4	890.9	727.8
Uttar Pradesh	2323.5	2598.8	2168.9

Karnataka request for MSPs of agricultural products

1788. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN:

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased the minimum support price for wheat by Rs. 10;

(b) whether Government have received any request from Karnataka Government to increase MSP on copra, toor dal, ragi and maize; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

[2 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The minimum support price (MSP) of wheat was raised from Rs. 610 per quintal of 2000-01 crop to Rs. 620 per quintal of 2001-02 crop, thus marking an increasing of Rs. 10 per quintal.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Karnataka requested for upward fixation of MSP of copra for 2002 season as compared to 2001 season. But keeping in mind the various factors taken into account in fixation of MSP, the Government decided to fix the MSP of copra for the 2002 season at last year's MSP. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) will continue to act as the central nodal agency to undertake price support operations of copra, during 2002 season.

The Report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) on price policy for Kharif crops of 2002-2003 season (including arhar, ragi and maize) has been circulated among the State Governments for obtaining their views/comments. The views/comments of the State Government of Karnataka are still awaited. While announcing revised prices for these crops, views of the State Government will be duly taken into consideration.

Contribution of agriculture towards GDP

1789. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage contribution of agriculture sector towards Gross Domestic Product of the country has decreased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action is being taken by Government to arrest this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The share of the sector, "Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing" in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices has declined gradually from 56.9 per cent in the year 1950-51 to 25.0 per cent in 2001-02.

(b) and (c) The decline in the share of agriculture in GDP is due to