

Steps for food security

1254. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that according to Planning Commission, India is heading towards food shortages during the next three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the per capita net Cereal availability per day and the details of food grain production during the next one year; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that growing gap between supply and demand is contained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) According to 11th Plan document of the Planning Commission continuation of present stagnation in foodgrains output would mean imports in excess of 20 million tonnes by the end of 11th Plan.

(c) The per capita availability of cereals has been provisionally placed at 409.9 grams per day and a record foodgrains production of 230.67 million tonnes is estimated (fourth advance estimate) during 2007-08. The first advance estimate made for the year 2008-09 envisaged a production of 115.33 million tonnes of foodgrains during Kharif. It is estimated that total foodgrains production during 2008-09 will be higher than that of 2007-08.

(d) The foodgrains demand and supply scenario in the country was reviewed in 53rd meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) held on 29th May, 2007 which resolved to launch a Food Security Mission to produce additional 20 million tonnes of foodgrains (rice 10 million tonnes, wheat 8 million tonnes and pulses 2 million tonnes) by 2011-12 to meet the growing demand of foodgrains and make the country self sufficient in foodgrains production. To operationalize the resolution of NDC, the centrally sponsored mission mode programme "National Food Security Mission (NFSM)" has been launched since October, 2007 in 312 districts of 17 States with an outlay of Rs.4882.48 crores for XI Plan period (2007-08 to 2011-12) focusing on rice, wheat and pulses to produce additional 20 million tonnes of foodgrains by 2011-12. Besides, the Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse cereals Based Cropping System Area (ICDP-Rice/Wheat/Coarse cereals) is implemented under Macro Management Programme in non-NFSM districts in all the States and Union territories to boost the production and productivity of these foodgrains. For the development of pulses and maize, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm & Maize (ISOPOM) is implemented in 14 major pulse growing States in non-NFSM districts to enhance the production of pulses and maize. The Government has also launched a new scheme "National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility" in November, 2008 to promote balanced use of nutrients for higher production. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)" was also launched in 2007-08 with an outlay of Rs.25,000 crores for XI Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12) to

incentivise States to invest and re-orient the current agricultural development strategies. In addition, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat has also been enhanced to Rs. 1,000/- per quintal for Rabi marketing season 2008-09 to encourage the farmers to grow more wheat for Paddy, the MSP has been fixed at Rs.850/- and Rs.880/- per quintal for Common and Grade-A varieties, respectively for kharif marketing season 2008-09 with the similar objectives. Further, while imposing a ban on Wheat and non-Basmati Rice export and permitting Wheat and Rice import at zero duty, the gap between demand and supply is contained.

Discontinuation of import of semen for betterment of the breed of animals

†1255. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of semen for betterment of the breed of animals has been discontinued; and

(b) if so, from which date and reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Steps for quality crops and protection from weeds

†1256. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crops grown in farms are found to be wanting in nutritious elements and also whether weeds are detrimental to both the crops and the health;

(b) the effective steps being taken by Government for quality crops and protection from weeds; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Plan to increase milk production

1257. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to launch a National Dairy Plan to increase milk production to reach a level of 160 to 180 million tons by 2021;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether a national conference of State Ministers of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development was held at New Delhi in the month of September this year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi