

In order to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 01.04.2004.

To increase the production and productivity of sugarcane in the country, Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) in different States subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture since April 2004.

A Technology Mission on Cotton is under implementation in the cotton growing States of the country since 2000-01 for increasing the productivity and production of cotton by focusing on increasing availability of cotton seeds, covering more area under hybrids, thrust for evolving area specific technology, popularization of integrated pest management, increasing efficient use of irrigation water, field demonstrations for transfer of technology to farmers and farmers' training.

Production of foodgrain

133. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrain production has risen to 0.9 per cent and is expected to turn growth of 2.6 per cent;

(b) if so, whether rice production has been projected at a record 99.37 MT from 98.89 MT pegged in the second advance estimate released in February;

(c) if so, whether inspite of increase in agriculture growth, India needs 40 per cent more foodgrains by 2025 from the present level to feed huge population which is likely to grow to 1.3 billion by then; and

(d) whether in view of improved position of wheat, Government is likely to open up wheat export soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) No, Madam. The production of foodgrains during 2008-09 is estimated at 229.85 million tonnes (3rd Advance Estimates released on 8th May 2009) as compared to the estimated production of 230.78 million tonnes during 2007-08, *i.e.*, a decline of 0.4%. According to the Revised Estimates released by the Central Statistical Organization, the growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Agriculture and Allied Sector during 2008-09 is estimated at 1.6% as against the earlier Advance Estimates of 2.6%.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) The requirement of foodgrains by the year 2025 has not been projected. However, based on GDP growth rate of 7% and per capita growth rate of 5.5%, the National Development Council (NDC) Sub-Group on Demand and Supply has projected total demand of 252.80 million tonnes of foodgrains for 2020 as against the projected demand of 219.00 million tonnes of foodgrains for 2008-09, *i.e.*, an increase of 15.43%.

(d) No, Madam. For the present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to open up wheat export from the Central Pool.

Need to help sugar cane farmers

134. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's sugarcane belt is yet to reap the benefits as the indifference of the Central and the State Governments has only increased plight of cane farmers in the last five years with no support from Government sector to cane farmers or turning to other agriculture items like wheat and pulses and seasonal vegetables due to less remuneration awarded by mill owners;

(b) if so, whether sharp fall in sugar production has already stoked up prices in the retail market to Rs. 25-28 per kg.; and

(c) the concrete measures and steps Government considers to take to improve its output?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) to (c) No, Sir. To increase the production and productivity of sugarcane, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) under Macro Management of Agriculture is implemented in 23 States/Union Territories. The scheme provides assistance to the farmer for extension and developmental activities to increase production and productivity of the sugarcane.

Besides, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is providing soft loans to sugar mills from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for cane development in mill areas for production of planting materials, irrigation purposes, incentive to farmers for switching over to improved varieties, ratoon management, tissue culture laboratories etc.

Apart from the above Central Govt. has been fixing the SMP of sugarcane for each sugar season, having regard to the various factors viz., cost of production of sugarcane; return to the growers from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agriculture commodities; availability of sugar to consumers at a fair price; price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by sugar producers; and recovery of sugar from sugarcane realization made from sale of by-products viz. molasses, bagasse and presumed or their imputed value.

In view of increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat and paddy in the recent past, shift in area from sugarcane, ensuring profitability of sugarcane cultivation vis-a-vis wheat and paddy and to ensure adequate production of sugarcane and sugar, the Government has recently approved fixation of SMP of sugarcane for 2009-10 sugar season at Rs. 107.76 per quintal linked to a basic recovery rate of 9.5%, subject to premium of Rs. 1.13 for every 0.1 percentage point