

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Production of pulses

*286. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the downfall of cultivation of pulses day-by day;
- (b) whether Government is also aware that most of the farmers have switched over to cultivation of wheat, rice and cash crops like soya and sugarcane as the prices of these essential food crops keep on rising in the market which are more beneficial to them;
- (c) the quantity of pulses being imported from other countries to meet their shortage in the country; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to announce some incentives to motivate farmers to cultivate pulses on a large scale in the country to reduce their import?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There is no declining trend in the total area under pulses in the country, which has remained around 23 million hectares since 2004-05, and which indicates that there has not been any shift in the overall area under pulses to other crops.

(c) Details of quantity of pulses imported during the period 2007-08 to 2009-10 are as under:

Year	Import of pulses	
	Quantity ('000 Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crore)
2007-08	2835.05	5374.94
2008-09	2481.10	6246.40
2009-10 @	3509.58	9813.37

@ Provisional

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, D/o Commerce.

(d) Production and productivity of pulses in the country is being promoted through crop development schemes such as National Food Security Mission-Pulses, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Macro Management Mode of Agriculture, new initiatives of promoting production of pulses through 60,000 pulses & oilseeds villages and starting Green Revolution in Eastern India. Recently, the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has been strengthened with enhanced scope for more intensive promotion of pulses crops. Pulses component of the Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) has been merged with NFSM and all the districts in the ISOPOM/NFSM States are now covered under NFSM-Pulses. In addition, 15 districts of Jharkhand and 10 districts of Assam have also been included under NFSM-Pulses based on their potential for pulses development. Besides, a new initiative viz. Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) has also been launched as part of NFSM-Pulses from 2010-11. Under A3P, one million hectare of potential pulses areas for the major pulse crops viz. tur, urad, moong, gram and lentil have been taken up for large scale demonstration of technology in compact blocks. Further, in order to incentivise farmers for cultivation of pulses, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Kharif pulses for 2010-11 has been substantially increased. The MSP of tur has been fixed at Rs.3000 per quintal, of moong at Rs.3170 per quintal and of urad at Rs.2900 per quintal marking an increase of Rs.700 per quintal, Rs.410 per quintal and Rs.380 per quintal respectively over last year's MSPs. An additional incentive at the rate of Rs.5 per kg of tur, urad and moong is admissible to the farmers for sale during the harvest/arrival period of two months to procurement agencies.

Unauthorised B.Ed, colleges

†*287. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the duration of B.Ed, course has been curtailed to two years from three years and whether State Teaching Eligibility Test (STET) has been made compulsory for admission to this course;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether unauthorized B.Ed, colleges were found at many places in the country; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi