

five pulses crops in 16 pulses growing States of the country. As per second advance estimate compare to previous year food grain production has significantly increased particularly for pulses and oilseed crops.

Purchase of agricultural production by Government

491. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will come forward to purchase the agricultural production directly to avoid the role of middlemen who cause increasing the rate of those production in the market and less remuneration for the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) Under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India has taken steps to enhance the reach of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies for making procurement of wheat and paddy from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP). It has also allowed the involvement of cooperative societies and self-help groups to enhance the reach of procurement from small and marginal farmers under MSP system. Similarly, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) along with Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) have been designated to carry out procurement of identified pulses and oilseeds at MSP from the farmers. Sufficient numbers of procurement centres are opened and wide publicity is given for the procurement system under PSS. Government is also implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of perishable agriculture and horticulture commodities, which are not covered under PSS.

Decline in production of pulses

†492. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that production of pulses is falling day-by-day;

(b) whether Government is also aware that farmers are preferring the cultivation of cash crops like wheat, rice, soya and sugarcane as prices of these essential crops are increasing in the market and more remunerative to them;

(c) the details of quantum of pulses being imported from other countries; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government proposes to encourage the farmer to increase the production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) The production of pulses has increased from 14.20 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 14.66 million tonnes in 2009-10. During 2010-11, the production of pulses is estimated at 16.51 million tonnes (2nd Advance Estimate) which is nearly 2 million tonnes higher than that of 2009-10.

(b) The data below indicates that the area under Pulses has increased by about 2 million hectares during 2010-11 as compared to area coverage during 2007-08; where as the increase in area under other crops is not very significant in the same period. This quantum jump in increase in area coverage and pulse production during 2010-11 could be attributed to Pulses production programmes promoted by the Government and increase in MSP of pulses.

Area in million hectares				
Crop	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11*
Rice	43.91	45.54	41.92	42.21
Wheat	28.04	27.75	28.46	28.25
Soybean	8.88	9.51	9.73	9.46
Sugarcane	5.06	4.42	4.17	4.96
Pulses	23.63	22.09	23.28	25.51

*2nd advance estimate.

(c) The details of the Pulses being imported from other countries during last three years are given below:

Quantity in Million tonnes		
2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
2.84	2.47	3.49

Source: DGC&S.

(d) Farmers are being encouraged to increase the production of pulses by availing the incentives provided under crop development schemes such as National Food Security Mission - Pulses, Accelerated Pulses Production Programme, Macro Management Mode of Agriculture Scheme, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, new initiatives of 60000 Pulses and oilseed villages and bringing in Green Revolution to Eastern India.