

Decline in agricultural production

3274. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI :

SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural production has registered a decline over the years with unusual rise and fall;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons; and

(c) the details of reforms carried out by Government in agriculture sector during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Production of major agricultural crops has been generally increasing except during the years witnessing deficient rainfall, floods, adverse temperature conditions etc. Trends in production of major crops viz. rice, wheat, coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds, sugarcane and cotton during 2006-07 onwards are given in the table below :

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 *
Rice	93.36	96.69	99.18	89.09	95.32
Wheat	75.81	78.57	80.68	80.80	85.93
Coarse Cereals	33.92	40.76	40.03	33.55	42.22
Total Pulses	14.20	14.76	14.57	14.66	18.09
Total Foodgrains	217.28	230.78	234.47	218.11	241.56
Total Nine Oilseeds	24.29	29.76	27.72	24.88	31.10
Cotton #	22.63	25.88	22.28	24.02	33.43
Sugarcane (Cane)	355.52	348.19 *	285.03	292.30	339.17

Million bales of 170 kgs. each

* As per 4th Advance Estimates for 2010-11

(c) For Agricultural Marketing the Government has undertaken a number of reform initiatives by advising the States/UTs for amending their respective State APMC Acts on the lines of Model Act

circulated to State's during 2003 and the Rules in 2007. This will provide avenues for promoting alternative marketing channels, direct marketing, contract farming and investments in development of marketing infrastructure. For extension services, the Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms". During 2010 the above scheme has been modified and strengthened to improve provision of man power, infrastructure and actual support. The revised Scheme for Extension Reforms provides for active involvement of research system/research agencies at different levels of implementation. State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) are being fully involved not only in preparation of State Research and Extension Plans (SREPs) and State Extension Work Plans (SEWPs) but also in implementation of various programmes in the field. In addition to above, Government of India has undertaken several measures for improving agriculture credit flow and bringing down the rate of interest on farm loans. Further, in recent years, Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops have been increased substantially to make farming more remunerative.

Scheme for rejuvenation of orchards

3275. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had launched a scheme rejuvenation of orchards in the country; and
- (b) if so, the progress thereof till 30 June, 2011, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz., (i) Horticulture Mission for North-East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) and (ii) National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in remaining States and Union Territories of the country for holistic development of horticulture crops. Under these Missions, assistance is provided for rejuvenation/replacement of senile plantations. In addition, Coconut Development Board is implementing a central sector scheme for replanting and rejuvenation of coconut holdings in the State of Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. An area of 438950 ha of plantations/ orchards has been rejuvenated/replaced under these schemes.