

important factors which include cost of production, changes input prices, trends in market prices, terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, international market price situation etc.

The methodology followed by the CACP for recommending the MSP is reviewed from time to time. The terms of reference of CACP have been modified based on the recommendations of an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Y.K. Alagh in 2009.

Self sufficiency in production of pulses

3263. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to fall in kharif acreage this year, the production of pulses has gone down considerably;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the factors responsible for fall in kharif acreage this year;

(c) whether Government's proposal to attain self sufficiency in pulses output has been severely hit; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to meet the shortage of pulses and also to attain self sufficiency in production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) As per the estimates of area coverage for the week ending 26th August, 2011, an area of 102.64 lakh ha is reported to have been covered under Kharif pulses as against 106.61 lakh hectares of normal area of kharif pulses. The marginal decrease in coverage of pulses is due to deficient rainfall in June/July in major pulses growing areas and farmers' preference for cotton and soybean crops.

Efforts would be made to compensate the Kharif area shortfall through area expansion of pulses by cultivating pigeonpea in rabi, inter-cropping of Urd and Moong with sugarcane and sunflower, during summer, sowing of pulses in rice fallow in rabi, sowing of summer pulses after wheat/vegetables. It is too early to make assessment of Kharif pulses production at this stage.

Efforts are being made to increase crop productivity through promotion of technology & extension support under the following pulses development programmes:

- i. National Food Security Mission-Pulses (NFSM-Pulses).
- ii. Accelerated pulses production programme (A3P).
- iii. Programme of Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulses Villages in Rainfed Areas.
- iv. Pulses Development programme under MMA.

Under these programmes, assistance is provided to the farmers for seed production, purchase of seed, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Weedicides, Improved farm implements, procuring sprinklers, pipeline for carrying water to the fields and pump sets etc. In addition, training of farmers and extension workers are also organised for transfer of latest production technology under the schemes. The latest production and protection technologies of pulses are demonstrated in compact blocks under Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P). Assistance is also provided for in-situ moisture conservation, minikits & pests surveillance and market linked extension support to the farmers through formation of Farmers producer Groups.

The production of total pulses has been increased from 14.20 million tonnes during 2006-07 to 18.09 million tonnes during 2010-11 which is 3.89 million tonnes higher as compared to 2006-07 (last year of 10th plan period) recording a continuous increase in production in 11th Five year Plan. It is expected that with adequate availability of pulses, there may not be any adverse effect on their market price during 2011-12.

Overall development of agricultural land

3264. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount of land distributed among SCs and STs at all India level during last two years;
- (b) the measures Ministry has taken to improve the irrigational facilities to these farmers; and
- (c) the State-wise initiatives and plans focusing on the overall development of agricultural land of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?