

Sector has to grow at 4% to be consistent with the Growth Rate of 9% for the economy as a whole.

#### Production of foodgrains in Assam

2509. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of production of foodgrains in Assam during last three years, crop-wise;
- (b) the total demand of foodgrains in Assam during the said period;
- (c) the details of unfertile land in Assam; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to increase the land under agriculture and production of foodgrains in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Crop-wise details of production of major foodgrains in Assam during the last three years and the current year are as under:

Crops	Production ('000 Tonnes)			
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12*
Rice	4008.5	4335.9	4736.6	4345.0
Wheat	54.6	63.5	52.8	59.0
Maize	12.6	14.1	14.3	13.0
Coarse Cereals	15.4	17.2	17.0	16.0
Pulses	64.5	64.6	70.1	97.0
Foodgrains	4143.0	4481.1	4876.5	4517.0

\* 3rd Advance Estimates released on 23.04.2012.

(b) State-wise demand of foodgrains have not been estimated by the Working Group of Planning Commission for Eleventh Five Year Plan. However, as reported by the State Government according to norms laid down by ICMR, the demand of foodgrains for human consumption in Assam during last three years is as under.

#### *Demand for Human Consumption (Lakh tonnes)*

2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
47.63	48.24	48.84

(c) As per the latest land utilization statistics of Assam for 2009-10, area reported under unfertile/barren and unculturable land category is about 14.08 lakh hectares.

(d) The State of Assam is affected by flood almost every year causing erosion of land under agriculture. Therefore, some cultivable area is lost every year. However, due to efforts of the Government, 58,000 hectares of fallow land has already been brought under agriculture during last two years. Also, area under double cropping has increased by more than one lakh hectares during the said period.

Further, to increase production and productivity of foodgrains in all the States including Assam, a number of Crop Development Schemes and Programmes, namely: National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme for Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals under Macro Management of Agriculture and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) are being Implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture through State Governments. In addition to above schemes, during 2010-11, a new programme *viz.* Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India has been initiated under RKVY. National Food Security Mission has been strengthened from 1.4.2010 with the merger of pulses component of ISOPOM and inclusion of two new potential States namely; Assam and Jharkhand for pulses production. A new programme "Accelerated Pulse Production Programme (A3P)" in the form of block demonstrations has also been started to cover 1000 units of 1000 hectares each of five pulses crops in 16 pulses growing States of the country including Assam.

#### **Decline in net income of farming community**

2510. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increase in cultivation cost and decline in net income are the main causes for the farming community's distress;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last four years, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh compared to other States; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to correct the situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) As reported by State Governments and also revealed in studies conducted earlier, causes of distress of the farming community are manifold which, *inter-alia*, include crop failure, indebtedness, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons etc.

The Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various agricultural commodities every year, *inter alia*, based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), and in consultation with Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments. The MSP is fixed in order to compensate the farmers for the increase in input costs, and ensure a remunerative price. The MSP fixed for major agricultural commodities during the last four years is