

The decrease in the share of Agricultural and Allied Sectors in GDP of the country in comparison to other sectors is on account of structural changes due to a shift from a traditional agrarian economy to industry and service dominated one. This phenomenon is generally expected in the normal development of an economy.

Increase in production of pulses

†2178. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an assessment of decline in total foodgrain production in the country in 2012-13;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is an assessment of increase in production of pulses; and

(d) if so, the details of such assessment and the percentage of requirement of pulses in the country which would be fulfilled by the quantity of production of pulses, at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As against estimated production of 259.29 million tonnes of foodgrains in 2011-12, the production during 2012-13 is expected to be lower at 255.36 million tonnes (4th Advance Estimates).

(c) and (d) Total production of pulses in the country during 2012-13 is estimated at 18.45 million tonnes which is higher by 1.36 million tonnes over the production of 17.09 million tonnes of pulses during 2011-12. The estimated production of pulses in the country during 2012-13 is expected to meet around 97% of the projected demand of 19 million tonnes of pulses for the year.

Potentiality of jobs and earning in agriculture sector

2179. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is high potentiality of jobs and earning in agriculture sector; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for the prosperity of agriculturist for the success of food security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) The job potential or employment opportunities and the earnings in the agriculture sector are not high. However, as per 2011 Census, nearly 54.6 per cent of the total workers are still engaged in agricultural activities, mainly in subsistence farming. This is partly due to the manufacturing and industrial sector not generating adequate employment opportunities to absorb the labour force from the agriculture sector and partly due to the lower level of education and skills of the labour force in the agriculture sector which find it difficult to migrate to other sectors.

(b) Government has taken several steps to revitalize agriculture sector and improve the conditions of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs. Various programmes/schemes for the development of agriculture sector are implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements.

Decline in production of cotton

2180. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of cotton in Karnataka and other parts of the country is declining, which is a cause of concern for the textile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) State-wise details of production of cotton in the country during the last five years *i.e.* 2008-09 to 2012-13 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

It may be observed that the production of cotton in the country has increased from 22.28 million bales (of 170 kg. each) in 2008-09 to 35.20 million