

Production of pulses

142. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is undertaking measures to increase the domestic production of pulses considering the growing dependence on imports, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has made proposals to re-introduce custom duties on imports of pulses which may lead to a hike in their prices, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) In order to increase domestic production of pulses, Government of India is implementing pulses component of National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in 622 districts of 27 States including all North-Eastern States and hill states in the country to enhance production and productivity of pulses.

Under the programme, various activities like demonstrations on improved production technologies, distribution of certified seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), resource conservation technologies/tools, efficient water application tools, cropping system based training etc. are being undertaken. Around 50 per cent of fund under NFSM is being allocated for pulses component.

Efforts are being made for area expansion of pulses through adoption of cropping system approach, utilization of rice fallows, paddy field bunds and inter-crop with oilseeds/commercial crops/coarse cereals etc.

Adaptive research projects are being undertaken by national and international research organizations to address various research issues and gaps of potential yield and yield realized at farmer's field.

(b) At present there is no proposal to re-introduce customs duties on imports of pulses.

Damage to crops due to rains

143. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent rains across various parts of the country have damaged crops spread over 50 lakh hectares, if so, the details thereof; and