

with higher yield and stress tolerance. In breeding programme, modern technique like, marker assisted selection is used and varieties developed through this technique namely, Swarna Sub-1, Improved Pusa Basmati, Improved Samba Mahsuri, IR 64 Drt 1, etc. are released for cultivation. A good number of rice hybrids are also being popularized to improve the productivity. Besides, 28869 quintals of breeder seed of rice varieties have been produced for sufficient quantity of certified seed production during 2011-12 to 2013-14. Government of India has implemented schemes like, Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India, National Food Security Mission and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna for improving production of paddy in different States.

Conservation of red and black rice varieties

1302. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether red and black variety of rice, having medicinal properties, are on the verge of extinction, if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;
- (b) whether Government has chalked out any plan for revival of these indigenous rice varieties, especially Mapilai Samba, Karunguravai, Kavuni and Kullakar varieties;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government for conserving and propagating these rice varieties and introduction of these healthy varieties in Government welfare schemes such as mid-day-meal scheme in order to provide healthy meal to children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Area under coloured rice/traditional rice varieties has decreased drastically with the introduction of new high yielding varieties. However, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has collected the traditional varieties including red and black rice from different parts of India and conserved in National Genebank at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) and also maintains them in germplasm collections at national active germplasm sites.

(b) and (c) ICAR-NBPGR has conserved the landraces of rice from different agro-ecological regions of the country, including landraces namely, Mapilai Samba, Kavuni, Karunguravai and Kullakar from different parts of Tamil Nadu in National Genebank. These landraces are periodically multiplied based on the demand of researchers.

(d) Through Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA), ICAR is facilitating the registration, conservation and propagation of these traditional

varieties. Several hundreds of farmers' varieties including varieties having medicinal properties from Odisha, Chhattisgarh, North East, Kerala, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Eastern UP were nominated for registration. So far, 570 farmers' varieties have been registered by PPVFRA.

The nutritive/nutraceutical properties of these varieties have to be well understood scientifically and documented before the same can be included in welfare schemes such as mid-day meal scheme of the Government.

Shortage of pulses

1303. SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether due to low production of pulses the prices of pulses have been increasing in the market;
- (b) if so, the demand and production of pulses during the last three years, year-wise, pulse-wise;
- (c) whether there is an artificial shortage of pulses in the country;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the hoarding;
- (e) whether Government has decided to import pulses to bridge the gap between demand and availability, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of various pulses imported to meet the demand during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Due to decline in production of pulses during 2014-15, prices of major pulses in the country have increased over the last one year. As on 23rd July 2015, retail prices of moong dal were higher by 11.87%, urad dal by 34.02%, arhar dal by 39.57%, masur dal by 23.72% and gram dal by 28.62% over the last year.

(b) Details of estimated production *vis-à-vis* demand of total pulses in the country projected by Working Group of Planning Commission for the Twelfth Five Year Plan for the last three years *i.e.* 2012-13 to 2014-15 are as under:-