

Plan to boost production of pulses

1477. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent crisis of pulses was due to the absence of timely planning to import them; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government will fix responsibility for the muddle and draw up a comprehensive plan to boost production of pulses in the country?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) No, Sir. Pulses in India are imported by private sector and not by Government. There are no restrictions on import of pulses. There is no import duty on import of pulses. However, Government imported 5000 tons of pigeon pea (tur) for taking up limited market intervention.

(b) The Government promotes production of pulses in the country through National Food Security Mission (NFSM) which covers 622 districts in 27 States. Around 50% of total allocation of NFSM is made for pulses for various interventions like demonstration of improved technology, distribution of quality seeds of new varieties, integrated pest management, water saving devices and capacity building of farmers. An additional allocation of ₹ 440 crore has been made for rabi and summer pulses during 2015-16. In order to increase production of pulses in the eastern India, pulses have been included in the scheme Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI) also from 2015-16. A special programme for demonstration of new varieties of pulses seeds through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) has been initiated from Rabi 2015-16. The Government has substantially increased minimum support price (MSP) for pulses in the current year.

Impact of deficit rainfall on agricultural production

1478. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the southwest monsoon season has registered an overall rainfall deficit of 14.3 per cent relative to the normal long period average for June-September; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the agricultural production?