

has received memoranda from State Government of Karnataka seeking financial assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for drought affected Rabi crops in the current year 2015-16. The Government of Karnataka has declared drought in 12 districts and sought financial assistance of ₹ 1416.93 crore from NDRF. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) has visited the State from 23.02.2016 to 26.02.2016 to carry out an assessment of the drought situation to suggest the quantum of assistance to be made available to the State by way of relief.

**Reducing dependence on monsoon for farming**

985. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of change in pattern of monsoon in past few years and its effect on crop growth across the country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken to provide modern irrigation facilities and reduce dependence on monsoon for farming the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has launched Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in July 2015 with the vision of extending the coverage of irrigation 'Har Khet ko Pani' and improving water use efficiency 'More crop per drop' in a focused manner and to expand cultivable area under assured irrigation and improving water use efficiency. Besides, the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) addresses the issues of climatic variabilities in agriculture and allied sectors. NMSA envisages Rainfed Area Development through Integrated Farming System approach, On-farm Water Management and Soil Health Management. DAC&FW is also promoting climate resilient varieties identified/released by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under the ongoing crop development programmes.

**Shortage of pulses for meeting the demand**

986. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has a shortfall of the supply of pulses for meeting the demand;

(b) the quantity of pulses produced in 2014 and 2015 and the area in hectares used for sowing of pulses; and

(c) the shortfall of pulses in 2015 and the details of the pulses imported to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) Yes Sir. On account of cultivation of pulses on marginal land under rainfed conditions, low area coverage due to risk of pests and diseases, higher profitability of other competing crops etc., total production of pulses in the country has not been sufficient to meet their demand.

(b) The details of area coverage and production of pulses during 2014-15 and 2015-16 are as under:

Year	Area (000 Hectare)	Production (000 Tonnes)
2014-15	23554.0	17150.3
2015-16*	24893.6	17329.8

\*As per the Second Advance Estimates

(c) Annual production of pulses in the country has been generally lower by 4-5 million tonnes than their requirement. During 2015-16 (April-December) 4.41 million tonnes of pulses have been imported.

### **Production of wheat**

987. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing inadequacy of wheat and the production has declined in 2015, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the production of wheat in the country in the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to augment the production of wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) The