

(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

details of estimated production of wheat in the country during 2013-14 to 2015-16 are as under:

Year	Production (million tonnes)
2013-14	95.85
2014-15	86.53
2015-16*	93.82

\* As per the Second Advance Estimates 2015-16.

The production of wheat in the country during 2014-15 suffered due to untimely rains/ hailstorm in some major wheat growing States during Feb-March 2015. However, the current estimated production levels of wheat in the country are adequate to meet its requirement.

(c) In order to augment production of foodgrains including wheat, the Government of India is implementing through State Governments, several Crop Development Schemes/ Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM) - Wheat, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) etc.

Under these Schemes/Programmes, funds are provided to States for implementation of State-specific agricultural strategies including incentives to farmers for use of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), farm mechanization, etc. The States are also provided support for creation of agricultural infrastructure for optimal use of water and other natural resources.

To achieve higher productivity of agricultural crops including wheat, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is also conducting basic and strategic research relating to crop improvement, production and protection technologies suitable to different situations including development of location-specific varieties/hybrids and technologies.

#### **Production of pulses**

988. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the fact that pulses constitute an integral accompaniment to rice and wheat in Indian diet, Government has been neglecting cultivation of pulses which are now confined to marginal and unirrigated lands with low fertility; and