

1	2	3	4
		Dhanbad, Bokaro, Chatra, Dumka, Godda, Deoghar, Jamtara, Giridih	
10.	Rajasthan	Ajmer, Banswara, Baran, Barmer, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dungarpur, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jalor, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Udaipur, Pratapgarh	19
11.	Gujarat	Rajkot, Jamnagar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Kutch, Porbandar	05#
TOTAL			266

Government of Gujarat declared semi scarcity in 5 districts.

Permission for cultivation of three new varieties of Khesari dal

†1445. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- whether it is a fact that three new varieties of Khesari dal have been found fit for human health;
- whether it is also a fact that production of pulses are declining continuously;
- if so, whether Government would permit cultivation of those three varieties of Khesari dal in the country, which are found fit for human health;
- if so, by when; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, three improved varieties of Khesari dal namely "Ratan", "Prateek" and "Mahateora" have been released for general cultivation in Chhattisgarh, MP, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, which have been found safe for human consumption due to presence of very low level (0.07-0.1 %) of a neurotoxin called Beta-ODAP (P- N oxaly-L-P-diaminopropionic acid), that is within limit.

(b) Production of pulses in the country during the last 4-5 years has been quite encouraging, increasing from 14.7 million tonnes in 2009-10 to highest ever 19.3 million tonnes in 2013-14. However, in 2014-15, it reduced by about 12 per cent to 17.2 million tonnes owing mainly to adverse weather conditions and the second advance estimates for total pulses production in 2015-16 is about 17.3 million tonnes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) to (e) There is no ban on cultivation of Khesari dal, only its sale and storage are prohibited.

Pest attack on CR-1009 Samba rice variety

1446. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that CR-1009 Samba rice variety, grown widely in Delta region, has over the years become susceptible to pests such as brown plant hopper and bacterial blight;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the yield losses reported due to such pest attack; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government to develop new pest resistant variety of Samba rice for Delta region in order to prevent high scale losses to Samba cultivator farmers of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Mono culturing of few selected rice varieties repeatedly for many years results in loss of resistance/tolerance of the rice variety against pest and diseases. CR-1009 was released more than two decades back and the same, though still popular, grown widely in the delta region, had over the years become susceptible to pests such as Brown Plant Hopper (BPH) and Bacterial (Yield) Blight among other pests. It is not unusual that due to continuous pest pressure the tolerance level is reduced. To meet the challenge, ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities are continuously engaged in breeding varieties and improving existing varieties to withstand the onslaught of pests and diseases.

(b) Yield losses in Samba rice variety depends on the intensity and spread of the disease (BLB) and the insect pest (BPH).

Moderate to severe incidence of bacterial blight of rice (*Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *Oryzae*) was recorded on rice variety CR. 1009 (Savitri) with an average yield loss of 15-20% in areas like Kariakal in Puduchhery and Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu recently.

(c) ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), Hyderabad in collaboration with Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) have introgressed three major Bacterial Blight resistance genes, *Xa21*, *xa13* and *xa5* into the genetic background of Samba Mahsuri. Resulting improved Samba Mahsuri is released in the States of Tamil