

(d) In order to boost the production of pulses and oilseeds in the country, the Government has prepared strategic plans like production and supply of good quality seeds, policy support in the form of attractive minimum support price (MSP), procurement, crop insurance, etc. to protect farmers' interest, area expansion under two Central Government schemes like National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), promoting improved production technology, enhancing seed replacement rate, provision for life saving irrigation, ensuring availability of critical inputs and machines for agri-operations etc. Further, to boost the overall production of pulses and oilseeds, increasing acreage under these crop commodities in the rice fallow areas, non-traditional areas and through intercropping systems have also been taken up.

Research and development to increase production of pulses

651. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is no improvement in per acre yield of pulses during the last 60 years;

(b) if so, the reasons for absence of Research and Development (R&D) initiatives directed towards pulses; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to calibrate Research and Development efforts towards developing better crop and seed varieties in pulses that can enhance the yield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is making continuous efforts and has taken a number of Research and Development (R&D) initiative towards pulses in the country. As a result, there has been about one-and-half-times improvement in the yield of pulses during the last 60 years from 500 kg/ha in 1954-55 to 728 kg/ha in 2014-15.

(c) The systematic and concerted efforts of ICAR has led to the development of 59 high yielding climate-resilient varieties of pulses for different agro ecological situations during the last five years (2011-2015). Early maturing and thermo-tolerant varieties for newer niches and cropping systems have also been developed. To ensure availability of quality seed to the farmers, 69391 quintal breeder seeds of pulses were produced and supplied to different seed producing agencies for further multiplication during the last five years (2010-11 to 2014-15).

In order to boost the production of pulses in the country, the ICAR and DAC&FW under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, have jointly prepared roadmap and action-plan with two-pronged approach of productivity enhancement and increasing production through area expansion under various ongoing Central schemes. The strategy includes increasing productivity of pulses by reducing the yield gap at the farmers' fields through a mission mode programme for promoting improved technology of pulses, improving seed replacement rate (SRR), provision for life saving irrigation, ensuring availability of critical inputs with corresponding policy support in the form of attractive MSP, procurement, credit, insurance, subsidies, etc. to protect the interest of pulse growers.

Production of rice

652. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of rice production in the country during last three years, State-wise; and
- (b) the details of centrally sponsored schemes in force for enhancement of rice production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) The State-wise details of the production of rice in the country during the last three years *i.e.* 2012-13 to 2014-15 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) In order to increase production and productivity of rice in the country, Government of India has been implementing through State Governments, various Crop Development Schemes / Programmes such as National Food Security Mission on Rice (NFSM-Rice), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) as a sub-scheme of RKVY, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Soil Health Card Scheme, 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.