

**Tapping agricultural potential of Eastern India**

1352. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vast agricultural potential of Eastern India including West Bengal remains untapped, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to promote agriculture in this region;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether it will have one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that vast agricultural potential of Eastern India including West Bengal remains untapped because of less use of improved varieties, low mechanization, small size of holdings, lack of marketing support etc.

(b) to (d) From 2010-11, Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is being implemented to address the constraints limiting productivity of rice based cropping systems in Eastern States including West Bengal. Various interventions namely, cluster demonstrations of rice and wheat, seed production and distribution, need-based inputs, cropping system-based training, asset-building includes farm, machinery and implements, irrigation devices and marketing support, etc. are being promoted under BGREI.

**Decline in production of pulses**

†1353. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of all types of pulses has declined;

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to tackle this decline;

(c) the quantum of decline registered in the production of all types of pulses during the past three years; and

(d) the way in which the shortage of pulses can be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) After achieving record production of

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

19.25 million tonnes in 2013-14, overall production of pulses in 2014-15 and 2015-16 declined to 17.15 million tonnes and 17.07 million tonnes (3rd Advance Estimates) respectively. Details of production of different types of pulses along with annual increase(+)/decline(-) in their production during 2013-14 to 2015-16 are as under:

(Production: Million tonnes)

Crop	Production			Increase(+)/decline(-) over the production of previous year		
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16*	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16*
Tur	3.17	2.81	2.60	0.15	-0.37	-0.21
Gram	9.53	7.33	7.48	0.70	-2.19	0.14
Urad	1.70	1.96	1.88	-0.20	0.26	-0.08
Moong	1.61	1.50	1.59	0.42	-0.10	0.08
Other Kharif Pulses	0.71	0.77	0.71	0.09	0.06	-0.06
Other Rabi Pulses	2.53	2.77	2.80	-0.20	0.24	0.03
TOTAL	19.25	17.15	17.06	0.91	-2.10	-0.09

\*As per 3rd Advance Estimates

(d) In order to increase the production of the pulses in the country and meet their demand, the Government of India has been implementing through State Governments, the National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Pulses since 2007-08. From 2016-17, NFSM-Pulses has been extended to 638 districts of 29 States. From 2015-16, pulses have also been included under the scheme "Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)" as part of demonstrations under cropping systems based approach to target rice fallow areas.

To encourage farmers to grow more pulses by ensuring remunerative prices, the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of pulses have been increased over the years. To incentivize cultivation of pulses in the country, over and above the MSPs, during 2016-17, the Government has also announced a bonus of ₹ 425/- per quintal for Kharif pulses, namely Arhar (Tur), Urad and Moong.

#### **Suicide by farmers**

†1354. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of suicides by farmers in the country is on the rise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.