

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2093
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2024

FRAMEWORK TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN PULSES

2093. SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the framework to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses by 2027 as targeted by Government;
- (b) whether Government is carrying out any research on the development of high-yield and climate-resilient varieties by using irradiation, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware that the production of Tur has been decreasing consistently for two years to 33 lakh million tons in 2023-24 and the pulse cultivation area has also decreased; and
- (d) if so, the manner in which Government is tackling the issue under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Pulses?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): In order to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing National Food Security and Nutrition Mission-Pulses (NFSNM-Pulses) in all the districts of 28 States and 2 Union Territories (UTs) viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh with the objective to increase pulses production through area expansion and productivity enhancement. Under NFSNM-Pulses, the incentives are provided to the farmers, through the States/UTs, on crop production and protection technologies, cropping system based demonstrations, production & distribution of certified seeds of newly released varieties/hybrids, integrated nutrient and pest management techniques, improved farm implements/tools/resource conservation machineries, water saving devices, capacity building of farmers through trainings during cropping season etc. Further, Targeting Rice Fallow Area (TRFA)-Pulses under NFSNM is being implemented in 11 states which gives emphasis on land that remains underutilized after harvesting of Kharif paddy crops and aims to bring a change in the cropping pattern during rabi season.

During 2024-25, a new focused approach under Cluster Frontline Demonstrations (CFLDs) of pulses is being implemented through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Further, minikits of pulse seed varieties not older

than 10 years are distributed free of cost to the farmers and 150 seed hubs on pulses have been set up under NFSNM to augment the availability of quality seeds of pulses to farmers through ICAR. Assistance is also given for certified seed production through central seed agencies and seed hubs. Government of India also provides flexibility to the states for state specific needs under Pradhan Mantri-Rashtirya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY).

The production of Tur has increased from 25.61 lakh tonnes during 2015-16 to 34.17 lakh tonnes during 2023-24. Similarly, the area of pulses has increased from 249.11 lakh ha during 2015-16 to 274.94 lakh ha during 2023-24.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been working for irradiation induced mutation breeding of pulses, in association with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay, Mumbai mainly targeting the traits like disease resistance, bruchid tolerance, high protein content, heat tolerance and drought tolerance. As a result, about 40 varieties of pulses developed through irradiation have been released and notified for commercial cultivation in the country.

In order to boost production of pulses, the ICAR is undertaking basic and strategic research on pulses crops at the ICAR-Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), Kanpur. Further, its four regional stations at Bhopal, Dharwad, Bikaner and Khordha are also undertaking applied research through All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on kharif and rabi pulses in collaboration with state agricultural universities for developing location-specific high yielding varieties and matching production technology packages to enhance productivity and overall production of pulses. As a result, 437 high yielding varieties/hybrids of different pulses have been notified for commercial cultivation in the country during 2014-24.
