

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 136
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/07/2022

PRODUCTION OF PULSES AND VEGETABLE OILS

*136. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

- (a) whether Government has assessed the impact of increase in the cultivation of pulses on the agro-ecosystem;
- (b) whether Government is taking action towards crop diversification, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government is aware that the production of pulses and vegetable oils in India is not sufficient and the schemes which Government is implementing for increasing the area under these crops; and
- (d) the manner in which Government is ensuring the promotion of pulse cultivation along with the price of pulse and vegetable oilseeds being sold to farmers, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 136 DUE FOR REPLY ON 29.07.2022 REGARDING “PRODUCTION OF PULSES AND VEGETABLE OILS”

(a) Yes Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has assessed the impact for pulses cultivation in different agro-ecologies with respect to soil health, soil microbial biomass, resilience to climate change etc.

(b) Government of India is supplementing the efforts of state governments to encourage diversified production of crops including pulses, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, cotton & oilseeds under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and horticultural crops under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). Government of India also provides flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Further, to encourage farmers to adopt alternative crops to paddy, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing the Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), a sub-scheme of RKVY in the Original Green Revolution States viz; Haryana, Punjab and Western Uttar Pradesh since 2013-14 towards alternative crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, cotton etc. Under CDP, assistance is given for alternative crops demonstration, farm mechanization and value addition, site specific activities and contingency for awareness & capacity building etc. CDP aims at demonstrating alternative crops at farmers field.

(c) & (d): While the production of oilseeds is not sufficient to meet the domestic demand of vegetable oils, however, the increased production of pulses has narrowed down the import of pulses to around 10 per cent of the domestic production. In order to enhance the production of oilseeds and pulses, Government is implementing National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in the country. Under NFSM, assistance is given through State Governments to farmers for interventions like cluster demonstrations on improved package of practices, demonstrations on cropping system, seed production and distribution of High Yielding Varieties/Hybrids, improved farm machineries/resource conservation machineries/tools, efficient water application tools, plant protection measures, nutrient management/soil ameliorants, cropping system based trainings to the farmers etc. The production of pulses has increased from 163.20 lakh tonne in 2015-16 to 277.50 lakh tonne in 2021-22 (as per 3rd Advance Estimates) and oilseeds from 252.50 lakh tonne to 385.0 lakh tonne during same period. Further, import of pulses has declined from 58 lakh tonne in 2015-16 to 27 lakh tonne in 2021-22.

In addition, the mission also provides support to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) & State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for technology back stopping and transfer of technology to the farmer under supervision of Subject Matter Specialists/Scientists. Government has also launched a separate Mission for Oil Palm namely, National Mission on Edible Oils (Oil Palm) in 2021-22. Both, NFSM- Oilseeds and NMEO (OP) mission components are being implemented in the country with an objective to augment the availability of vegetable oils by increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds & oil palm. Further, Targeting Rice Fallow Area (TRFA) under NFSM is implemented for cultivation of pulses & oilseeds in rice fallow of 12 states. RKVY also supports pulses and oilseeds production in the states.

The prices of pulses and oilseeds being sold to the farmers in various states comprise of incentives provided by Government of India under NFSM programme on certified seed distribution of High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) of pulses and oilseeds at Rs. 5000 per quintal and Rs. 4000 per quintal respectively and for Hybrids in oilseeds at Rs. 8000 per quintal. Further, Government is also supplying seed minikits of HYVs of pulses and oilseeds free of cost to the farmers.
