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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 678
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/07/2022

WHEAT CRISIS IN THE COUNTRY

678. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that on 12th April, 2022, the Prime Minister had assured that if permitted by the World Trade Organisation, India is ready to feed the entire world;

(b) whether there is a wheat crisis in the country;

(c) if not, the reasons for India banning export of wheat on 14th May, 2022;

(d) if so, reasons for change in policy within a few weeks; and

(e) the estimated impact of this export ban on the income of Indian wheat growing farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): There is no wheat crisis in the country, as India produces wheat more than its domestic requirement. As per third Advance Estimate, the wheat production has been estimated to be 106.41 million tonnes during 2021-22 which is above the average production of wheat during last five years (2016-17 to 2020-21) i.e. 103.89 million tonnes. In order to manage the overall food security of the country and to support the needs of the neighbouring and vulnerable countries, the Central Government amended the export policy of wheat from 'Free' to 'Prohibited'. However, export will also be allowed on the basis of permission granted by the Government of India to the other countries to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their Governments.

(e): There are no adverse impact on income of wheat growing farmers because despite ban on wheat export, farmers are getting good remunerative prices. Domestic prices of wheat are ruling above MSP (Minimum Support Price) even after ban on the export of wheat.

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