

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 192**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17/03/2023

**WHEAT PRODUCTION**

\*192. SHRI IRANNA KADADI:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government for the bumper production of wheat for this year;
- (b) whether Government is planning to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat;
- (c) the steps taken by Government for improvement of the infrastructure of wheat storage in the country; and
- (d) whether Government is planning to lift ban on wheat export for this year, the details thereof?

**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 RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 192 FOR 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023 REGARDING “WHEAT PRODUCTION”.

(a): The Government is implementing National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in all the 28 states and 2 Union Territories with the objective of increasing food grain production across the country. The NFSM-Wheat is being implemented in 10 States and 2 Union Territories viz; Jammu & Kashmir and Ladkha. Under NFSM, assistance is given through state governments to farmers for interventions like cluster demonstrations on improved package of practices, demonstrations on cropping system, distribution of seeds of High Yielding Varieties (HYVs)/hybrids, improved farm machineries/resource conservation machineries/tools, efficient water application tools, plant protection measures, nutrient management/soil ameliorants, processing & post-harvest equipments, cropping system based trainings to the farmers etc. The country's wheat production during 2022-23 is 112.18 million tonnes (as per 2<sup>nd</sup> Advance estimates) which is 4.44 million tonnes additional production over the previous year i.e., 2021-22.

Further, the ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR), Karnal and All India Coordinating Research Project on Wheat & Barley are working on developing climate resilient varieties and also keeping strict vigil on disease situation in the country. During 2014 to 2023, a total of 156 wheat varieties have been released. The wheat varieties such as DBW303, DBW187 etc. have average yield of 8 tonnes per hectare. Further, 28 bio-fortified varieties of wheat have been developed by ICAR which are rich in multi-nutrients such as DBW327, DBW332, DDW47 etc.

(b): Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 22 mandated agricultural crops and Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned and other relevant factors. The Government in its Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced the predetermined principle to keep MSP at a level of one and half times of the cost of production. Accordingly, Government has increased the MSP for all mandated Kharif, Rabi and other commercial crops with a return of atleast 50 per cent over all India weighted average cost of production from the agricultural year 2018-19 onwards. The MSP of wheat has increased from Rs. 1525 per quintal during 2015-16 to Rs. 2125 per quintal during 2022-23 which is 39% increase over 2015-16.

(c): The Food Corporation of India (FCI) under Department of Food & Public Distribution mainly stores wheat & rice after procurement for Public Distribution System (PDS) operation and to maintain buffer stock. The covered storage capacity available with FCI and State agencies for storage of central

pool foodgrain is 714.82 lakh MT (as on 01.03.2023). Further, FCI continuously assesses and monitors the storage capacity and based on the storage gap assessment, storage capacities are created/hired through the schemes viz; (i) Construction of Silo's under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, (ii) Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme, (iii) Central Sector Scheme (CSS), (iv) Hiring of godown from Central Warehousing Corporations (CWCs)/ State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs)/ State agencies and (v) Hiring of godown through Private Warehousing Scheme (PWS). During the last 5 years, 12.78 lakh tonne additional covered storage capacity has been created by FCI.

In order to upgrade and modernize the storage facilities, Government of India has approved an action plan for the construction of steel silos in PPP mode through FCI in the country. Under this plan, silos of 12.75 lakh MT capacity has been completed.

(d): All decisions regulating duty or policy changes are taken on the basis of domestic demand and supply considering the latest import and export scenario of agriculture commodities in domestic as well as international market and also the interest of local farmers and consumers. At present lifting restriction on export of wheat is not under consideration.

\*\*\*\*\*