

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 514

TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

STEPS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF PULSES

514. SHRI JAGESH:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to focus on increasing the production of pulses to reduce reliance on imports;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that pulse imports have increased by 90 per cent in 2023-24;
- (c) whether Government proposes any initiative, focusing on non-traditional pulse growing regions to increase pulse production particularly 'arhar' and 'urad';
- (d) if so, the list of such areas, State-wise and the timeline for implementation of the initiative;
- (e) whether Government's initiative includes encouraging pulse cultivation in tribal areas and Naxal-affected districts to boost production and increase farmers' income; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) 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 by introducing appropriate varieties of pulses.

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); minikits of pulse seed varieties not older than 10 years are distributed free of cost to the farmers; 150 seed hubs on pulses have been set up under NFSNM to augment the availability of quality seeds of pulses to farmers through ICAR, and 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 import of pulses during 2023-24 is 47.39 lakh tonnes and the domestic production of pulses is 242.46 lakh tonnes.
