

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3214
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28/03/2025

MEASURES TO PROTECT WHEAT PRODUCTION AGAINST RISING TEMPERATURE

3214. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) the measures being taken to ensure that the record wheat production of 115.4 million tons is not affected by rising temperatures in March;
- (b) the manner in which Government is supporting farmers with high-yielding seed varieties and irrigation infrastructure; and
- (c) whether Government has a buffer stock policy to prevent surplus wheat from wastage?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Wheat has developed 114 varieties during last 15 years which are suited to varying weather conditions and out of total wheat area planted in the country during 2024-25, more than 60% of wheat area is under climate resilient varieties. These climate resilient varieties show less reduction in yield under stress environments.

The wheat varieties such as DBW187, DBW303, DBW327, WH1270, PBW872 have been developed and notified for the October planting and modifying planting schedules had allowed the grain filling to occur at comparatively lower temperatures and reduces the wheat exposure to heat stress thereby resulting in higher yield. In addition, ICAR- Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR) Karnal is timely monitoring weather and issuing advisories to farmers, allowing them to implement protective measures in case of rising temperature. Further, IIWBR is also involved in breeder seed supply of high quality wheat seeds and direct seed distribution to farmers.

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare implemented the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) in the Country from the year 2015-16 to 2021-22 as a component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). From the year 2022-23, the scheme is being implemented under the Pradhan Mantri-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY). PDMC scheme focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation, namely, Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation systems. Further, a Sub-Mission on Seeds & Planting Material (SMSP) from the year 2014-15 is being implemented to promote production and multiplication of quality seeds of agricultural crops, so that the required quantities of seeds could be made available to farmers in the country. Since 2023-24, the SMSP has been merged with National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM).

Government of India sells surplus food grains (Wheat), beyond the buffer stocking norms, Public Distribution System (PDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) requirements, through open sale under Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS(D)]. This helps increase the availability of foodgrains in the market, control inflation, ensure food security and make foodgrains more affordable for the general population.
