

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 304
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5TH FEBRUARY, 2019

ETHANOL PRODUCTION

304. SHRI RAJU SHETTY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has surveyed the potential of maize production and its by products for replacement of the cultivable area of paddy and wheat in the country which can be utilised for production of ethanol;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to promote the by-product like ethanol; and
- (c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to promote the production of ethanol from maize as sole crop?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c): Paddy, wheat and maize are the major foodgrain crops and contribute substantial share in overall food basket of the country. Government of India ensure to increase the production and productivity of all foodgrain crops including maize for multi purpose utility. In addition, maize is used as food, feed and fodder and also serves as source of basic raw material for various industrial products, such as starch, oil, protein, alcoholic beverages, food, sweeteners, cosmetics, bio-fuel, etc. Maize is grown in most of the states of the country. Looking to the nutritious value and potentiality of maize, Government of India has been promoting the maize cultivation to ensure its enhanced production and productivity through National Food Security Mission – Coarse Cereals. Under this programme, assistance is being provided to the farmers for organizing demonstrations on improved production technologies and distribution of seed of high yielding varieties/hybrids.

In order to diversify water guzzling crop paddy, Government of India is already implementing Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh as a Sub-Scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) since 2013-14 to divert the area to alternate crops including maize.

Government of India has approved National Policy on Biofuel in 2018 which include the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of sugarcane juice, sugar containing materials like sugar beet, sweet sorghum, starch containing materials like corn, cassava, damaged foodgrains like wheat, broken rice, rotten potatoes, unfit for humans consumption for ethanol production. Besides, the policy allows use of surplus foodgrains including maize for production of ethanol for blending with petrol with the approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas. However, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare has not made any strategy in respect of National Biofuel Policy, 2018.
