

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2168
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2022

DECLINE IN WHEAT PRODUCTION

2168. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:

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

- (a) whether the country's wheat production is projected to have declined nearly 3% to 106.8 Million Tonnes (MT) owing to extreme climate patterns, heat waves and excess rainfall in some parts of the country and if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the reasons for the decline in wheat production in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether various agricultural experts have flagged the recent mysterious disease causing dwarfing of crops primarily due to climate change and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is taking any measures to address the various issues including climate change and crop diseases impeding wheat production in the country;
- (e) the percentage of wheat production which is available for exports based on WTO norms, restriction, if any, made for export of wheat and wheat flour; and
- (f) if so, the steps proposed by the Government to adopt sustainable technologies for production of wheat and to diversify agricultural output away from wheat in the wheat producing States of the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) and (b): As per 4th advance estimates for the agricultural year 2021-22 (July-June), the production of wheat is estimated at 106.84 million tonnes, indicating a dip of 2.75 million tonnes (2.5%) as compared to 109.59 million tonnes estimated during 2020-21. This reduction in wheat production is due to the impact of heatwave in March 2022 in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh etc. However, the wheat production during 2021-22 is higher by 2.96 million tonnes (2.85%) than the average wheat production of 103.88 million tonnes (2016-17 to 2020-21).

(c): Stunted growth of paddy crop was reported in scattered parts of paddy growing areas of Punjab, Haryana and Uttarakhand due to the Southern Rice Black – Streaked Dwarf Virus (SRBSDV), a viral disease.

(d): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed various climate resilient varieties of seeds in different crops including wheat that are tolerant to climate stress and also keeping strict vigil on disease situation in the country. The recently released climate resilient mega varieties such as DBW 187, DBW 222, DBW 303, HD 3226, HD 3086, GW 366 etc. are helping in negating the adverse environmental effects of climate. These varieties have inherent capabilities to tolerate heat, and are helping farmers from losses caused by biotic and abiotic stresses. ICAR is regularly conducting trainings/workshops/ field days for farmers for adoption of these varieties on large scale. Further, to deal with long term impacts of Climate Change, the Government of India is taking several steps. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) is one of the Missions within the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The mission aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate.

(e): Based on WTO norms, there has been no cap on export of wheat from the open market though export from public stock holdings is not permitted. The export of wheat was "Free" till 12.5.2022. However, in order to manage the overall food security of the country and to support the needs of neighboring and vulnerable countries, the Central Government amended the export policy of wheat from 'Free' to 'Prohibited' vide notification dated 13.5.2022. However, export is allowed on the basis of permission granted by the GoI to other countries to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their Governments.

(f): Steps taken by the Government to adopt sustainable technologies include climate resilient varieties of seeds in different crops including wheat that are tolerant to climatic stresses. To diversify agricultural output away from wheat in the country, Government is taking steps under various schemes such as the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), etc. A Crop Diversifications component is also operational under the RKVY Scheme.
