

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 208
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3RD DECEMBER, 2019

BUCKWHEAT CROP

*208. DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.:

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

- (a) the names of the States in which buckwheat is grown along with the total area in which it is grown;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that buckwheat is a good food, a relatively low input crop that has comparatively high yields even on marginal soil and also has medicinal value;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to encourage farmers to grow buckwheat;
- (d) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent international symposium on buckwheat held in the country; and
- (e) if so, whether the Government has taken note of the discussions in the symposium and if so, the details thereof along with the other steps taken by the Government to intensify the use of buckwheat grains as a food crop so as to diversify the nutritional basket?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 208 DUE FOR REPLY ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2019.**

(a): Buckwheat is grown in the hilly regions of the States of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Manipur, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Chhattisgarh, the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and in the Nilgiris & Palani Hills. The estimated area under buckwheat is around 25,800 hectares.

(b) & (c): From the nutritional perspective, buckwheat is an excellent source of high quality protein and dietary fibre with rich micronutrient density. Buckwheat has nutraceutical properties of nutritional and medicinal importance. Buckwheat is considered as a low input crop and can be grown in marginal, infertile, rocky and poorly tilled lands. In order to encourage the farmers to grow buckwheat, Government of India is providing assistance to the farmers through implementation of the programmes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission on Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). The States may also seek assistance for encouraging the production of buckwheat through Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

(d) & (e): The Government is aware of the 14th International Symposium on Buckwheat for “Diversifying Food Systems for Health and Nutritional Security” organized by International Buckwheat Research Association (IBRA) in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at North Eastern Hill University, Shillong From September 3-6, 2019. In order to intensify the use of buckwheat, ICAR-All India Co-ordinated Research Network on potential Crops has developed nutritionally rich five varieties and are promoted by ICAR and respective State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) through front line demonstrations, trainings and kisan melas for encouraging farmers to grow buckwheat.