

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.268**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020

**IMPACT OF LOCKDOWN ON HARVESTING**

268. SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR:

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

- (a) whether the harvesting process, which usually starts in mid-April, was thrown completely off-balance due to the nation-wide lockdown;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the same; and
- (c) the details of loss in crops, crop-wise and State-wise?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. In order to ensure timely and safe harvesting of rabi crops during the lockdown period due to pandemic COVID-19, the Ministry of Home affairs, Government of India had issued comprehensive guidelines vide their letter No. 40-3/2020-DM-1(A) dated 15.04.2020 on the measures to be taken for containment of Covid-19, which also ensured smooth functioning of Agricultural operations. Besides, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare had issued the Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs) dated 18.04.2020 for farmers for their safety and keeping social distancing while undertaking farm related activities. All the harvesting of rabi crops was completed timely.

As a result, the production of rabi foodgrains increased from 143.70 million tonnes in rabi 2018-19 to 153.27 Million tonnes in rabi 2019-20 (4th Advance estimates).

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