

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2512
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9TH MARCH, 2021

WORLD PULSES DAY

2512. DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR. S.:
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has observed World Pulses Day recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the theme of the event and initiatives taken by the Government to make the event successful;
- (c) whether the Government has neglected the growth in production of pulses in the country resulting in large import of pulses though being the largest producer of pulses in the world;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the names of countries from where pulses were/are being imported along with the rates at which the same were/are imported;
- (e) whether any financial aid is extended to farmers to grow pulses in the country in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other steps taken by the Government to boost production of pulses in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): World Pulses Day (WPD) was observed on 12th February, 2021. WPD aims to raise awareness of pulses and highlight the critical role of pulses in addressing the challenges of poverty, food security, human health and nutrition, soil

health and environment thereby contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A high level event to commemorate the WPD was organized by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) virtually, in which Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India delivered key note address.

(c) & (d): India is the largest producer of pulses in the world, with nearly 26% share to global pulse production. The increase in pulse production in recent years has been attributed to both area expansion and productivity enhancement. The production of pulses has increased from 16.32 million tonnes during 2015-16 to 24.42 million tonnes during 2020-21 (2nd advance estimates for 2020-21).

To meet the marginal shortage, pulses are imported from the countries like Canada, Myanmar, Tanzania Republic, Mozambique, Australia, China, Brazil, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Russia, United States of America (USA) etc. The quantity and values of imported pulses during last 3 years is as under:

Year	Quantity (million tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crore)
2017-18	5.61	18748.57
2018-19	2.52	8035.30
2019-20	2.90	10221.0

(e) & (f): National Food Security Mission (NFSM) - Pulses programme has been implemented in 2019-20 and 2020-21 of COVID-19 pandemic period. The pulses development programme under NFSM is implemented in 644 districts of 28 States and Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) released an amount of Rs.980.41 crore and Rs.691.29 crore during 2019-20 and 2020-21 (as on 01.03.2021), respectively. Under NFSM-Pulses, incentives are given to the farmers for cluster demonstrations, seed distribution & production of certified seeds of High Yielding Varieties (HYVs), farm machineries/tools, efficient water saving devices, plant protection chemicals, nutrient management, soil ameliorants and trainings to the farmers. In order to enhance production of pulses, following initiatives have been taken:-

- Support for breeder seed production of pulses.
- 150 Seed Hubs created at ICAR institutes, State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for increasing certified seeds production of pulses.
- Distribution of seed minikits of pulses for the varieties notified within 10 years free of the cost to the farmers.
- ICAR/KVKs/SAUs conduct the demonstrations on improved latest package of practices.
- Central Seed Agencies to produce certified seed of pulses latest varieties notified within 5 years.
- A new scheme "Intercropping of pulses with sugarcane" launched for 12 States namely- Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand during 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- Special Action Plan undertaken for increasing pulses productivity was implemented during 2019-20.

- Launched Targeting Rice fallow Area (TRFA) programme under NFSM emphasizing on land that remains underutilized after harvesting of kharif paddy and aims to bring a change in the cropping pattern during rabi season by introducing appropriate varieties of pulses that can be cultivated using available moisture. It is being implemented in 11 TRFA states across the country.
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) extend the coverage of irrigation for crops including pulses.
