

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2557
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND AUGUST, 2022

LOSSES TO WHEAT HARVEST

2557. SHRI KESINENI SRINIWAS:

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

(a) whether the Government has assessed the potential losses to wheat harvest in the current year owing to extreme climate patterns and heat waves;

(b) if so, the details of the assessment/findings and if not, the reasons therefore, State-wise;

(c) the percentage of wheat production which is available for exports based on WTO norms and whether extreme climatic patterns have hampered exports of wheat;

(d) if so, the steps that the Government is taking to adopt sustainable technologies for production of wheat; and

(e) the steps the Government is taking to diversify agricultural output away from wheat in Northern part of the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): As per 2nd Advance Estimates the production of wheat was 111.32 million tonnes which has reduced to 106.42 million tonnes as per 3rd Advance Estimates but is higher than the last 5 years (2016-17 to 2020-21) average production of 103.88 million tones. The revision is due to the impact of a heatwave in March 2022 in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh etc.

(c): 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 will be allowed on the basis of permission granted by the Gol

to other countries to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their Governments.

(d): 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, have been developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). 177 varieties were evaluated in the farmers field across the country for different climate extremes like floods, droughts, heat wave etc. and were developed by State Agricultural Universities and ICAR institutes under various programmes. ICAR has also launched a flagship network project NICRA. The project is being implemented through different components viz., strategic research on adaptation and mitigation, demonstration of technologies on farmers' fields in 151 clusters of villages one each from climatically vulnerable districts and creating awareness among farmers and other stakeholders to minimize the climatic change impacts on agriculture. 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): The 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. to diversify agricultural output in the country. A Crop Diversifications component is also operational under the RKVY Scheme.
