

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 356**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2016

**CULTIVATION OF KHARIF CROPS**

356. SHRI T.RADHAKRISHNAN:  
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:  
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:  
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:  
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:  
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:  
DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:

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

- (a) the details of the total estimated area under cultivation of Kharif Crops in 2016-17 as compared to that of 2015-16, crop-wise;
- (b) whether sown area of most of Kharif Crops witnessed a decline during the current year as compared to that of the previous year and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any initiative to create awareness among farmers to turn crop waste into biochar and use it as fertilizers to sustain soil fertility and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to enhance the production and acreage of Kharif Crops in the country?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) & (b): As per latest reports from State Governments, a comparative position of area coverage under kharif crops during the current year i.e. 2016-17(as on 15.07.2016) vis-a-vis the corresponding period of last year i.e. 2015-16 is as under:-

| Crops          | Area Sown                 |                           | Increase( + )/decrease( - )<br>in area over the last year |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|
|                | 2016-17 (as on 15.7.2016) | 2015-16 (as on 15.7.2015) |   |
| Rice           | 123.93                    | 122.99                    | 0.94  |
| Coarse Cereals | 105.98                    | 101.45                    | 4.53  |
| Pulses         | 71.07                     | 51.12                     | 19.95   |
| Foodgrains     | 300.98                    | 275.56                    | 25.42   |
| Oilseeds       | 130.12                    | 127.13                    | 2.99  |
| Sugarcane      | 45.78                     | 44.80                     | 0.98  |
| Cotton         | 75.41                     | 93.22                     | -17.81  |
| Jute & Mesta   | 7.47                      | 7.67                      | -0.20   |
| All-Crops      | 559.76                    | 548.38                    | 11.38   |

(in Lakh ha.)

Note: Area coverage figures are as per eye assessment of State Agriculture Departments

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It is observed that area coverage under most of kharif crops during the current year (as on 15.7.2016) is higher than the area covered during the corresponding period of last year.

(c): Application of biochar is reported to be as soil amendment (not as fertilizer) which may be a potential option to sequester atmospheric carbon into soil besides improving soil quality in terms of improving its physical properties and nutrient availability. Presently, there is no programme to educate farmers regarding production of biochar from crop waste and its use in agriculture. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is engaged in research on biochar for its agricultural use.

(d): In order to increase acreage and production of agricultural crops in the country, Government of India is implementing through State Governments, several Crop Development Schemes/Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Mission on Agriculture Extension & Technology (NMAET), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana etc.

Under these Schemes/Programmes, funds are provided to States for implementation of State-specific agricultural strategies including incentives to farmers for use of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), farm mechanization, etc. The States are also provided support for creation of agricultural infrastructure for optimal use of water and other natural resources.

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