

Financial assistance from Ministry of Finance

†*80. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has recently sent a proposal for financial assistance to the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has accepted their proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (e) As per the final accounts of 2010-11, the "Excess" left after payment of dividend was inadequate to cover the expenditure incurred out of Development Fund and Capital Fund. As a result, closing balances under these two Funds have become negative and Ministry of Finance was requested to extend a temporary loan of ₹ 2,101 crore to bridge this gap.

The Ministry of Finance has not agreed to extend the above loan and has advised the Ministry of Railways to meet this liability by raising their resources suitably in the current year (2011-12).

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Decline in the availability of pulses

466. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that *per capita* availability of pulses in the country has declined to 34 grams from 66 grams during the last five decades;

(b) if so, the reasons for this sharp decline; and

(c) whether Government took any initiative to encourage cultivation of pulses, and if so, the details thereof and results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):
(a) and (b) The *per capita* availability of pulses since 1960 has been as follows:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	<i>Per capita</i> net availability (Grams per day)	Production (million tonnes)
1960	65.5	11.80
1970	51.9	11.69
1980	30.9	8.57
1990	41.1	12.86
2000	31.8	13.41
2010	31.6*	14.66

*Provisional

Despite the increase in production of pulses the per capita availability of pulses has declined due to higher increase in population compared to increase of production of pulses.

(c) In recent years a higher increase in the MSP for pulses, as compared to other crops, has been given in order to incentivise the production of pulses.

In addition, the Government implements schemes to increase the production and availability of pulses in the country namely National Food Security Mission – Pulses (NFSM-Pulses), Accelerated Pulses Production Programme, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc. Production of pulses has increased to 18.09 million tonnes in 2010-11.

Regulation of prices of cotton seeds

467. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) which agricultural produces are covered under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(b) why cotton seed has been reintroduced in the list of essential commodities;

(c) whether Government is willing to regulate the prices of cotton seeds under the provision of ECA;

(d) whether reintroduction of cotton under the Act is not against policies of reforms, liberalization, market-led economy, forward marketing and WTO obligations, etc.; and

(e) if so, whether Government would consider to empower States to regulate the Bt. cotton prices in case it is not regulating the prices of Bt. cotton seeds?