



Govt Launches Pulse Distribution Drive

Why in News?

The Government of India has launched a seed distribution drive in **seven states**, including **Madhya Pradesh**, to promote the cultivation of arhar (tur) and urad pulses.

- It aims to reduce the country's growing dependence on imports and ensure price stability through domestic production.

Key Points

- **The Initiative:**
 - **Objective:** Promote domestic production of **arhar and urad** pulses.
 - **Implementing Agency:** Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
 - **Execution Partner:** National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Limited (NCCF).
 - **Coverage:** Seed distribution in select districts across **seven states**- Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Manipur, and Tripura.
- **Selection Criteria:** Districts have been selected based on two main criteria:
 - They are **rainfed regions**, making them suitable for pulse cultivation.
 - They include **Aspirational Blocks** as identified by **NITI Aayog**.
- **Financial and Policy Support:**
 - ₹1 crore will be spent on seed distribution across the selected districts of 7 states.
 - The government will ensure **100% procurement** of arhar and urad at **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** if market prices fall below MSP.
 - For the **Kharif Marketing Season 2025-26**, MSPs are:
 - Arhar (tur): ₹8,000 per quintal
 - Urad: ₹7,800 per quintal
- **Recent Import:**
 - India imports around a dozen types of pulses from various countries.
 - In **2023-24**, pulse imports rose to a **record high of 47.38 lakh tonnes**, nearly **double** the **24.96 lakh tonnes** imported in 2022-23.
 - The increase in imports has added pressure on the domestic supply and price stability of pulses.

Aspirational Blocks Programme(ABP)

- It is a development initiative led by the **NITI Aayog** aimed at improving the performance of areas that are lagging on various development parameters.
- It was announced in the **Union Budget 2022-23**.
- It will initially cover 500 districts across 31 states and Union Territories, with over half of these blocks located in six states - **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal**.
 - A total of **42 blocks from Madhya Pradesh** have been selected under the ABP.

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