

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2674

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004

EFFECT ON SCANTY RAINFALL ON CROPS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified the areas where there has been scant rainfall during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, state wise
- (c) the present status of monsoon in those areas and its impact on Kharif crop alongwith the loss suffered by the farmers due to the failure of monsoon;
- (d) whether ICAR scientists have advised farmers to shift to cultivation of pulses, oilseeds, maize etc.instead of paddy and other crops which require more water;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f)the specific steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation; and
- (g) the total financial assistance/relief provided by the Union Government to States affected by less rain?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) to (g) A statement indicating State-wise details of rainfall position during the current South-West Monsoon

(1.6.2004 to 4.8.2006) as reported sported by the India Meteorological department (IMD),is at Statement-1

During current south-West Monsoon, the cumulative rainfall for the country as a whole till 28th July wasâ€” 15%. With the revival of south-West Monsoon, there was significant improvement in rainfall activity during subsequent priod,kharif sowing is still in progress. There is considerable improvement in States like Andhra pradesh, Gujarat,Haryana, Maharashtra and Punjab during last two weeks. Due to widespread rains in the first two weeks of August, some improvement is in evidence in Rajasthan also. It will be premature to indicate, at this stage, the impact on Kharif crops and Districts which may face distress.

A `Crop Advisory` has been issued to the States facing situation arising out of deficient rainfall during the current South-West Monsoon. Details are at Statement-II.

Interim demands raised by Governments of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, at a time when a serious drought was apprehended, require reconsideration by the States concerned, in the light of changed situation. However, second instalment of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2004-05 (due in November) has been released in advance to the States facing situation arising out of deficient rainfall, to enable them to initiate necessary relief measures. 50,000 MTs of foodgrains to Madhya Pradesh and 1 lakh MTs of foodgrains to Rajasthan have been allocated for generation of relief employment, wherever necessary. Railways are transporting drinking water to affected towns in Rajasthan, free of cost. The Central Government is closely monitoring the situation and is in constant touch with the State Governments concerned.