

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1281

ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009

EFFECT OF SHORTFALL IN RAINS ON KHARIF CROPS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Kharif crops produced during each of the last three years, crop-wise;
- (b) whether shortfall in rains is likely to affect the Kharif crops production and food security this year;
- (c) if so, the assessment made by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to declare this dry spell as drought;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): The production of Kharif crops in the country during the last three years is given in the Annexure.

(b) & (c): The impact of shortfall in rains on production of kharif crops in different states will depend on the extent of deficiency in rainfall in the respective States. Presently, delay of one to two weeks in arrival of monsoon in certain states such as Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, East Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, East Uttar Pradesh has been observed, leading to some delay in sowing of Rice, Groundnut, Soyabean in these states. However, with the revival of monsoon in various parts of the country, sowing operations have gained momentum and no major shift in crop sowing and production pattern is expected. The present stocks of food-grains available in the Central Pool are sufficient to meet the demand of food-grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other Welfare Schemes at present level of allocations during the current year.

(d) & (e): Declaration of drought is made by the respective State Governments taking into account various factors like rainfall deficiency, status of sowing operations, estimate on damage to crops etc. As reported by IMD, during current South-West Monsoon, upto 08-07-2009, the country as a whole received 151 mm of rainfall against normal rainfall of 234.7 mm, with a deviation of (-)36%. During 2009-10, the Government of Manipur has declared all the districts in the State as drought affected. The Government of Jharkhand has declared 4 districts as drought affected.

(f): It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the affected States with financial and logistic support. Funds are readily available with the State Government under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities. Additional assistance, over and above the CRF, is considered from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for natural calamities of severe nature where the funds available in the CRF of the State are not adequate to tackle the situation and on submission of a memorandum for Central assistance by the affected State.