

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3753
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
DROUGHT PRONE AREAS
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether on account sever drought in several States and lower acreage in wheat, rice and pulses will have an adverse impact on foodgrains in 2000-01;
- (b) if so, whether this scenario is based on the inputs provided by the State Agricultural Production Commissioners, State Agricultural Secretaries, Vice Chancellors of Agriculture Universities and senior officials of the Union Agriculture Ministry during their two days conference;
- (c) if so, the other recommendations made in the conference; and
- (d) the steps being considered to meet the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir.

(c): The Conference deliberated on the strategy for achieving a higher production level during Kharif 2001 in the light of expected shortfall in production during 2000-01. It was decided that the States will lay greater emphasis on larger coverage of area under high yielding varieties including intensive propagation on hybrid seeds, timely supply of inputs like seed, fertilizers and regular surveillance of pests and diseases and make efforts for effective transfer of new technologies developed by the ICAR, helpful to the Farmers. The Conference also deliberated on the issues relating to WTO, progress made under watershed management, macro- management schemes and drought situation. It was also decided to monitor the progress of the implementation of the programme more intensively.

(d): The Government have been taking, overtime, several measures to increase production and productivity of agricultural crops and consequently there is a long term upward trend in production of foodgrain crops such as rice, wheat and oilseeds etc. However, the production of agricultural crops tend to fluctuate sometimes, from year to year, due to agro-climatic conditions and to meet such a situation contingency plans are drawn, which are location and condition specific.