

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2908
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009
EFFECT OF DROUGHT ON RABI CROPS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the losses in area and production of rabi crops due to drought;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): It is too early to make any assessment of the losses in area and production of rabi crops due to drought. However, for increasing rabi production Government of India conducted rabi conference on 24th & 25th Oct. 2009 and video conferences with the major drought declared States on 5th & 6th Oct.2009 to review the issues relating to drought management and preparedness for rabi season. Strategies have been adopted for enhancing production during rabi season by increasing area of wheat to the extent of half million hectare and to improve the productivity in major states which may result in an increased production of two million tonnes of wheat compared to last year. The increase in area of summer / winter/ boro rice is targeted to the extent of 12 to 15 lakh hectare in the states like West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Eastern Uttar Pradesh which may result in additional production of 4 (four) million tones of rice. With the improved moisture level it is also envisaged to increase the area under rabi pulses to the extent of about 15 lakh hectare which will result in additional production of one million tones of pulses. Similarly, additional production of oil seeds like rabi summer groundnut, Sunflower, Sesamum can also bring about 1.2 million tones of additional oilseeds production. Thus, efforts would be made to produce about 8.5 million tones of additional food grains in the current rabi season and additional production of about 1.5 million tones of oilseeds. Due to late rains received in the major parts of the country, moisture level in the soil has been improved which has enlightened the prospects of rabi crop production in major parts of the country. The assessment of area coverage in the country as on 03.12.2009 compared to the corresponding period of the last year at the same time is as follows:-

Crop	Area Sown	Area Sown	Increase/decrease over last year
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	2009-10	2008-09	
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Wheat	167.36	162.40	+4.96
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Rice	2.47	1.68	+0.79
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Total coarse cereals	52.98	58.18	-5.20
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Oilseeds	77.23	82.03	-4.82
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Pulses	105.08	99.00	+5.48
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Area coverage is likely to increase during rabi season 2009.

In view of the recent drought, the distribution of certified seeds on subsidy under various programmes of the schemes namely

Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize (ISOPOM), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA) has been enhanced with an additional estimated subsidy of Rs. 288.26 crores for distribution of certified seeds during current Rabi Season.

Government of India has taken several other initiatives to increase more coverage of various crops during Rabi, 2009 and also to enhance the productivity. States have been given more flexibility to utilize the funds to meet the additional demand for requirement of seed distribution component. Subsidy norms of Rice, Wheat, Jowar, Bajra and Pulses (only for Rabi/summer 2009) have been increased under various crops development schemes of Ministry of Agriculture to reduce the burden of farmers in drought affected area. Age norms of certified seed of rice, wheat and pulses have been relaxed and additional area coverage under boro/summer rice/wheat/pulses are planned for enhancing production. Additional allocation of rust resistance and terminal heat-tolerant varieties of wheat minikits has been done. Availability and supply of essential inputs such as fertilizer, additional power for irrigation has been ensured in coordination with States and various Central Ministries.