

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:148

ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009

LOSS TO AGRICULTURE

Ray Shri Rudramadhab ;Saha Shri Anup Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government had convened a meeting of State Agriculture Secretaries recently to review the situation arising out of the delayed and deficient monsoon in the country;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has drawn any contingent plan to offset losses in production of crops in the event of delayed and scanty monsoon;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Union Government has urged the State Governments to utilise the services of Agriculture Universities/Agriculture Extension Centres/Krishi Vigyan Kendras in educating the farmers of the imperative needs to adopt and use new agronomical practices, sow water stressed short duration crop varieties, etc. so as to minimise the impact of drought like situations; and
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 148 DUE FOR REPLY ON 14-07-2009.

(a) to (f): Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India convened the meeting of the Agriculture Secretaries of the States in the Central and Southern States on 25-06-2009 to review the impact of slow progress of monsoon on the sowings of agriculture crops and alternate plans if the current trends continues. In view of the prevalent weather conditions, the states have drawn up alternate plans for implementation, if the rains are delayed/not received by 15th July, 2009. Three video conferences were held with the Principal Secretaries/Directors of Agriculture of the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam and Bihar for reviewing the crop situation. The Government is closely monitoring the situation on day to day basis. The States have been advised to identify the pockets of distress, if any, and take timely remedial measures. The States have also been advised to ensure that seeds are made available to farmers they have lost due to prolonged dry spell in any local area through Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM) funds and to promote medium & short duration crop varieties or alternate recommended crop in case of delayed sowing. Government have taken a decision to increase allocations under NFSM and RKVY and give more flexibility to States to use these Schemes to meet the contingent situation particularly for purchase and distribution of seeds for alternate crops/varieties, support for micro-irrigation etc. The State Weather Watch Groups have been asked to take region-wise reviews of the situation in consultation with the State Agriculture Universities for issuing suitable advisories to the farmers and the disseminations of the advisories through the regular programmes on Doordarshan, All India Radio and other channels for conveying the information. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) have been directed to facilitate extension of weather based Agriculture management, available on the ICAR website to the farmers and other stakeholders at the district level.