

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3961
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
DIESEL SUBSIDY SCHEME
Tewari Shri Manish

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched diesel subsidy scheme to compensate States and farmers in the wake of the failure of South West Monsoon that has led to the unprecedented drought;
- (b) if so, the details of States which were eligible for this diesel subsidy scheme for their paddy crops;
- (c) whether the States including Punjab have availed such diesel subsidy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Union Government has provided any special package to States including Punjab for the cost which the farmers incurred on producing paddy in 2009 as a result of the failure of the Monsoon;and
- (f) if so, the details of the said package?

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 (d): Yes, Madam. The Diesel Subsidy scheme was introduced during Kharif 2009 for the drought and deficit rainfall affected areas, with a view to enable the affected farmers provide supplementary irrigation to protect their standing crops and salvage agricultural production. The scheme was operational from 15th July to 30th September, 2009 and was applicable in the following cases:

- (i) districts where the rainfall deficit was more than 50% as on 15th July, 2009, as reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- (ii) talukas/districts which have been declared as drought affected areas by the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.
- (iii) Areas with prolonged dry spell continuously for 15 days i.e. scanty rainfall (deficit more than 60% of normal) for any continuous 15 days period, starting from 15th July, 2009 onwards as per reports of IMD.

Only the Governments of Bihar and Tamil Nadu claimed reimbursement of the Government of India's share of Rs.21.52 crores and Rs.1.43 crores, respectively. The Government of Punjab did not opt for this scheme.

(e)&(f): The Central Government has provided special package of Rs.800.00 crores to Punjab and Rs.400.00 crores to Haryana for the measures taken by these States to protect the standing crops during Kharif 2009 season.