

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4022

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010

MEASURES TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a long spell of drought in various States may affect agriculture production leading to shortage of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to reorient agricultural research so as to increase agricultural productivity;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any role has been envisaged for the private sector in such research; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**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)&(b): Due to long spell of drought in various States, production of foodgrains in the country during 2009-10 is estimated at 216.85 million tonnes as compared to 234.47 million tonnes during 2008-09, i.e., a shortfall of 17.62 million tonnes.

(c) to (f): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been involved in the development of improved varieties suited to different agro-climatic situations of the country. In some of the crops like rice, maize, pearl millet, sorghum, cotton and pigeon pea, hybrids have also been developed to enhance the productivity of these crops. Apart from these measures, suitable package of practices of cultivating these crops in different cropping systems have also been developed to increase the productivity of different crops. Private sector is also involved in the development of hybrids particularly in rice, maize and pearl millet.