

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6228
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010
COTTON AND JOWAR PRODUCTION IN MAHARASHTRA
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether production of cotton, jowar and soyabean in 2009-10 is likely to be less than 2008-09 in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of these crops;
- (c) whether the main reason for less production of these crops is unavailability of irrigation facilities; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to provide irrigation facilities to the farmers in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra?

Answer

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

(a): During 2009-10, the production of cotton and soyabean in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra has increased by 2% and 33% respectively as compared to their production during 2008-09. However, production of Kharif jowar during 2009-10 has declined as compared to last year mainly on account of long dry spells during monsoon season.

(b): Some of the major steps taken by Government of Maharashtra to increase production of the the above crops include launching of a massive campaign for in-situ soil moisture conservation all over the State, campaign for utilization of rain water harvested in farm ponds, issue of plant protection advisories to the farmers through mass media etc.

(c) & (d): The above crops in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra are mainly grown as rain fed crops. To increase irrigation facilities in Vidharbha region, particularly in the Amaravati Division, funds are provided to liquidate irrigation backlog. The expenditure on Vidarbha has increased from Rs.354.00 crore in 2002-03 to 3254.00 crore in 2008-09. Further, in the Prime Minister's package, additional irrigation potential of 1.15 lakh hectare has been created in distressed districts of Vidarbha region.