

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:89
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
Patil Shri A.T. Nana

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a bumper crop is expected in the current financial year owing to good rains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such increase in agricultural production is likely to cause loss to the farmers due to fall in prices of foodgrains in the market; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

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) to (d): Yes, Madam. The foodgrains production during kharif, 2010 has been estimated to be about 114.63 million tones as per first advance estimates as compared to 103.84 million tones in kharif 2009 (4th Advance Estimates, Directorate of Economics & Statistics). It is too early to estimate the food grains production of the current year as a whole as sowing has just commenced for the current Rabi season and the total production can only be estimated after the rabi season is over.

The prospects of Rabi crops during the current year have been reviewed by the Department at various levels and the strategies were finalized for positioning of quality seeds, fertilizers and other inputs. The agro-climatic conditions in most parts of the country so far continue to be favourable for the current Rabi season. Adequate water is stored in reservoirs across the country. Late season rains due to extended monsoon period have also helped in keeping the soil moisture level adequate for rainfed crops of wheat and pulses. Due to these climatic factors and active implementation of crop development programmes like National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Macro-Management of Agriculture (MMA), it is expected that the production of foodgrains could be better than the last year.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) of agricultural commodities has been increased to ensure better economic return to farmers even if there was any fall in market price. New agencies for procurement of pulses such as Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and National Consumers' Co-operative Federation (NCCF) have been nominated in addition to National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) to increase the number of procurement centres.