

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:457

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009

DEFICIT RAINFALL

Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun; Hussain Shri Syed Shah Nawaz

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

- (a) whether the latest information on monsoon indicate deficit rainfall in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its likely impact on agriculture;
- (c) whether drought has been declared in some States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to mitigate the hardships faced by the farmers due to drought and crops loss?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 457 DUE FOR REPLY ON 04-08-2009.

(a) & (b): For the period 1st June to 29th July, 2009, the percentage departure from normal rainfall in the four broad geographical regions of the country was (-) 33% in North-West India, (1%) in Central India, (-)15% in South Peninsula and (-) 39% in North East India.

Estimates at this stage indicate area coverage under kharif crops so far to be lower than last year, particularly in the case of paddy. The decline in area is mainly in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa.

(c) & (d): Manipur has declared drought in all the 9 districts. Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand have declared drought in 58 and 4 districts respectively. Assam and Nagaland have declared drought like conditions in the State.

(e): It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the affected States with financial and logistic support. To mitigate the hardship of the farmers affected by drought and crop loss due to deficiency in rainfall, the Government of India has initiated various measures including contingency crop planning in specific agro climatic conditions; availability of additional power to affected States from the Central pool; availability of additional seed; advisory services to farmers through the Indian Council of Agriculture Research; assistance to the State Governments for diesel subsidy; and flexibility to the States under the Central Schemes to meet the contingent situation.