

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4474
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
SOWED AREA UNDER PADDY AND OILSEEDS
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the area under which paddy and oilseeds have been sowed in the current year as compared to last year, State-wise;
- (b) the reasons for decrease in the area of paddy cultivation and the likely shortfall in production;
- (c) whether some scientists and agriculture experts are of the view that the sowing of paddy and coarse grains is very less even in irrigated areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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): The coverage of Kharif paddy reported so far is about 191.30 lakh hectares as on 30-07-2009 against last year coverage of 256.76 lakh hectares during corresponding period and sowing of oilseeds area coverage till 30-07-2009 is less by 2.87 lakh hectares as compared to corresponding period season during last year. The statement indicating area coverage of paddy and oilseeds during current Kharif and corresponding period Kharif 2008 season is given at Annexure-I.

(b): The coverage under area of paddy has declined so far during Kharif 2009 season due to drought like situation prevailing at present. Less coverage of paddy has been reported mainly in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Orissa and West Bengal. It is too early to make an estimation of production of paddy during current Kharif seasons too early at this stage.

(c) to (e): In States like Punjab and Haryana with assured irrigation, the present coverage of Rice is 102% and 97% respectively on 30-07-2009. Whereas the area coverage under coarse cereals as on 30-07-2009 is more than coverage during corresponding period of last year. In this regard State are also directed to use the technical support of KVKs, Agriculture Universities and also the information available on ICAR website in planning and implementing the alternate strategies for the optimum utilization of available water.

The Ministry of Agriculture is constantly reviewing the sowing progress with the State Governments through weekly video-conferences/ meetings, particularly in the wake of weak monsoon so far to coordinate adequate response. For different scenarios, contingency crop-plans for specific-agro climatic conditions have been prepared. General features of these plans include replacement of main crop such as rice with alternate crop like millets in case of delayed sowing; planning of early maturing varieties of the main crop; promoting technical package of practices like direct sowing, less plant spacing, more seed rate etc. Truthfully labeled seeds are also allowed to be distributed under various schemes in the affected areas. Age norms are relaxed for the seed varieties distributed under Government Schemes. In case of delayed planting, additional doses of nutrients are recommended for crops in good rainfall areas which to some extent compensate the reduction of production in rain- deficient States/areas.