GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:392
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2012
MONSOON IN THE CURRENT YEAR
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimate of the monsoon rainfall is less than average during the current year;

(b) if so, the parts of the country in which monsoon rainfall has been registered less than the average rainfall till the end of July;

(c) whether any assessment has been made to know the reasons of this shortage in rainfall;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the perceived threat of loss to the farming community due to the expected drought, State-wise; and

(f) the alternative sources of water conceived in case of failure of the South-West Monsoon ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) Quantitatively, monsoon season rainfall for the country as a whole so far till 3nd August 2012 has been only to the extent of 81% of its long period average(deficit by 19%). The actual rainfall for the country as a whole received during 1 June to 02 August 2012 has been 378.8 mm as against the average of 471.4 mm. 19 out of 35 states/union territories received less than the average rainfall till the end of July 2012 details of which are presented in Annexure.

(c) Yes Madam.

(d) The deficiency to certain extent is attributed to the delayed onset and advance of monsoon over various parts of the country (in a range of 1-2 weeks). The lower frequency of the formation of principal rain bearing cyclonic weather systems (lows and depressions) over the Indian seas of Bay of Bengal and Arabian Seas during the current season (as against the average frequency of about 6-7, only one low pressure area formed so far) is seen to be the main contributing factor for the deficit rainfall distribution observed over the country. Detailed study on the above seasonal scale monsoon circulation anomalies and associated characteristics are monitored closely to examine their impacts on the ensuing rainfall during the months of August and September, 2012.

(e) The sowing of all the kharif crops has affected in different States due to the delay in onset of monsoon rains and deficit rainfall received so far during this kharif season leading to the reduction in quantum of sowing by

i) 18.3lakh ha than last year in respect of rice owing to much lesser coverage in Haryana, West Bengal, Orissa, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand etc.;

ii) 34.4lakh ha in respect of coarse cereals due to lesser sowing in Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat etc.; and

iii) 13.6lakh ha in respect of pulses due to decline in acreage in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka etc.

Some area of coarse cereals, jowar, bajra and groundnut are likely to remain unsown in Maharashtra, Gujarat, west Rajasthan and Karnataka.

At the middle of the monsoon season and with 19% deficient rainfall for the country as a whole and some of the sub divisions having deficiency of 40 to 59% or more, the contingency plans are implemented focusing on fodder production, short duration pulses and conservation of moisture for early planting of rabi crops like Toria, sorghum and gram, etc.

(f) Augmentation of ground water on availability is the only viable option that increases the cost of production for rice over high rainfall deficit regions of Punjab, Haryana and West U.P., where more than 95%of the area is irrigated from the reservoirs where the water levels are significantly low, is likely to be met either from extra allocated power by the Central Government (1000MW allocated) for

operating bore wells water lifting devices or through diesel subsidy extended already.

In addition, for the augmentation of the drinking water scheme, the Government of India had already approved assistance of Rs. 424crore to four most stressed states viz. Karnataka-Rs. 71crore; Haryana-Rs. 25crore; Maharashtra-RS. 200crore; Rajasthan-Rs. 158crore. Additionally, a sum of Rs. 38crore is approved for 3-states viz. Karnataka-12crore; Maharashtra-Rs. 15crore; Rajasthan-Rs. 11crore, to deal with the calamity from the National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRWDP) for augmenting habitation level safe drinking water supplies.