

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4025
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009
EL NINO EFFECT
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports that the EL Nino will have an adverse impact on the monsoon and Kharif sowing in the year 2010;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) if so, likely effect on the agricultural production;
- (d) whether the Government is prepared to tackle the situation in view of the possibility of shortage of foodgrains due to the continuous decline in foodgrain production; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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 (c): No, Madam. Analysis of the long term data suggests there is an inverse relationship between the El Nino events and Indian Summer Monsoon Rainfall (ISMR). The 132-year historical rainfall record reveals that severe droughts in India have always been accompanied by El Nino events. Yet El Nino events have not always produced severe droughts. There is no one-to-one relationship. 126 year record (1880-2005) suggests, only less than half of El Nino events are associated with deficient rainfall over India and in other El Nino years, ISMR was normal or excess. El Nino is one of the factor of determining the ISMR variability and not the sole factor in itself.

(d)&(e): The Government has been closely monitoring the situation arising out of deficit rainfall and its impact on food grain production. Presently, the stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool are adequate to meet requirement of the existing levels of allocations to the States and UTs under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS).