

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:34
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009
IMPACT OF DEFICIENCY OF MONSOON
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of deficient monsoon in India during the last six months;
- (b) whether this has resulted in the contraction of agriculture output and GDP growth this year; and
- (c) if so, the facts thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

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

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.34 for 20th November, 2009 by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta regarding 'Impact of Deficiency of Monsoon.'

(a):As reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), during South-West Monsoon 2009 (1.6.2009 to 30.9.2009), the country as a whole received 689.8 mm of rainfall against normal average rainfall of 892.2 mm which represents a deviation of -23%.

(b) & (c):The following Table gives the First Advance Estimates of Agricultural Production, 2009-10, released by the Ministry of Agriculture on 3.11.2009, as compared to the Fourth Advance Estimates for 2008-09:

Table: Kharif Production (Million Tonnes)

Crop	2009-10 (First Advance Estimates)	2008-09 (Fourth Advance Estimates)	Difference
Rice	69.45	84.58	-15.13
Coarse Cereals	22.76	28.34	-5.58
Total Kharif Pulses	4.42	4.78	-0.36
Total Foodgrains	96.63	117.70	-21.07
Oilseeds	15.23	17.88	-2.65
Sugarcane	249.48	273.93	-24.45
Cotton \$	23.66	23.16	0.50
Jute & Mesta \$\$	10.25	10.40	-0.15

Production in `000 bales of 170 kg each

Production in `000 bales of 180 kg each

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates are published by Central Statistical Organization (CSO) on a quarterly basis. The GDP estimates of the first quarter of 2009-10 indicate that agriculture has grown by 2.4 percent. The impact of shortfall in agricultural production during kharif 2009-10, on GDP, would be known only after the GDP growth rates for the relevant quarter of kharif season are published by CSO.

Government of India has taken a number of steps to protect the standing crops and to ensure that no land remains unsown for want of inputs so that the losses in kharif can partially be offset by augmented production in rabi season. The following are some of the important measures taken to reduce the impact of deficit in rainfall:

- (i) States were requested to prepare alternate plan for unsown/germination failed areas with short duration/alternate crops.

(ii) Use of Truthfully Labelled (TL) seeds, relaxation of age for seed varieties and distribution of minikits allowed under the Government Programmes (National Food Security Mission and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana).

(iii) Fund made available under the Centrally Sponsored Programmes to enable taking up of agriculture re-construction programme.

(iv) Additional ad-hoc monthly allocation of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) category under Public Distribution System(PDS) to drought affected States, for October to December, 2009 was made.

(v) A scheme of Diesel Subsidy for drought and deficit rainfall affected areas was announced for the drought affected States and districts with deficit rainfall of more than 50% as on 15th July, 2009, for the period upto 30/9/09. The scheme was subsequently relaxed to include areas with prolonged dry-spell for any continuous 15 days period starting from 15.7.2009 for those areas with scanty rainfall (-60% or more).