

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3424

ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015

SOWING OF CROPS

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

- (a) whether the production and acreage of rabi crops has declined due to deficient rainfall/weak monsoon in various agroclimatic zones of the country during 2014-15;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, crop-wise;
- (c) the details of assessment made in regard to adverse effect of deficient rainfall pattern on agricultural production and the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to educate the farmers to overcome the situation arising out of deficient rainfall in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of financial and technical assistance being provided to the farmers for the cultivation of crops during delayed/deficient monsoon in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ( SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA )

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The estimated area and production of rabi crops during 2014-15 as per Second Advance estimates released by the Ministry of Agriculture for 2014-15 is less than last year. The crop-wise details of area and production is given in Annexure.

(c): The details of area and production during 2014-15 vis a vis 2013-14 are given in Annexure. To tackle the aberrant rainfall situation in many parts of the country during monsoon season, States prepared district wise Contingency Plans in consultation with Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), State Agricultural Universities and Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Besides, States were also asked to ensure availability of seeds of shorter duration, drought tolerant varieties and alternate crops, availability of fertilizers, power supply and other critical inputs in time. Government reviewed the situation with States regularly.

(d): Ministry of Agriculture educates farmers by giving suitable advisories on SMS portal, television and other media to tackle the situation. The farmer are given advisories to over come the situation by adopting the technologies like in-situ moisture conservation, on farm water harvesting through farm ponds, ridge furrow, broad bed furrow, promoting agronomic practices like mulching, timely weed management, zero tillage practices including direct seeded rice through seed drills/drum seeder, use of short duration and drought resistant varieties, intercropping and mixed cropping etc as recommended by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs).

(e): In the wake of deficient rains during monsoon season 2014-15, financial assistance have been given to farmers under State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) as per norms. In addition the following financial and technical measures were also extended:-

(i) Enhanced subsidy on certified seeds rice, wheat, pulses and coarse cereals under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and oilseeds under National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) by 50% for distribution in drought notified/ deficient rainfall districts.

(ii) States were advised to revise action plans under Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI), a Sub-scheme of RKVY, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) to meet drought like situation.

(iii) Central Research Institute on Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), ICAR extended technical assistance to the farmers by conducting demonstration trials in 100 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across India on rain water management, soil health management, resource conservation technologies in crop production for managing delayed/ deficient monsoon in the country during 2014-15.