

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3650
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2014
IMPACT OF EL NINO ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to assess the impact of El Nino on the agricultural production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) steps being taken by the Government to tide over the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): According to latest reports, El Nino conditions are not alarming at present. In the current monsoon session, there has been a rainfall deficit of 22% for the country as a whole as on 31.07.2014. However, it is too early to assess the impact of deficient rainfall on agricultural production.

(c): To tackle the deficit rainfall situation in many parts of the country in the current monsoon season, States have prepared district-wise Contingency Plans in consultation with Central Research Institute of Dry land Agriculture (CRIDA), State Agricultural Universities and Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Besides, they have also been 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 is reviewing the situation with States regularly.

Farmers are also being regularly advised to adopt techniques such as in-situ moisture conservation & on farm water harvesting through farm ponds, etc., 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 of paddy like Sahabhazi Dhan, intercropping & mixed cropping with pulses/oilseeds coarse cereals, spray of drought mitigating chemicals like thio-urea, KCl, KNO₃ and hydrogen, etc. States have also been advised to raise community nurseries of paddy and arrange seeds of contingent crops like coarse cereals, pulses oilseeds, vegetables, fodder etc.