

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 04.12.2009
ANSWERED ON**

MEASURES TO IMPROVE FORTHCOMING RABI YIELDS .

231

Shri Jesudasu Seelam

Will the Minister of COALCOALAGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether drought conditions have worsened and resulted in Kharif output to fall by 15 per cent;

(b) whether

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the Minister of Finance has also pointed out that there will be 15 to 20 per cent shortfall in country's Kharif crop due to deficient monsoon and drought conditions;

(c) whether food prices will continue to rise;

(d) whether Government has decided to give Rs. 288 crore subsidy for Rabi seeds; and

(e) the concrete steps and measures Government proposes to take to improve Rabi output and to give protection to Rabi seeds?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION)

(SHRI K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (e):A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 231 FOR 04/12/2009 REGARDING MEASURES TO IMPROVE FORTHCOMING RABI YIELDS.

(a) & (b):Yes, Sir. Delayed, deficient and erratic rainfall during Kharif, 2009 has adversely affected Kharif food grain output by around 18% (as per first Advance Estimate 2009-10).

(c):Food prices depend on several factors such as production within the country and globally, climatic conditions, dietary preferences of consumers, overall economic growth etc. To mitigate the effect of drought and to stabilize the food prices in the country, minimum support price of rice and wheat has been increased for Kharif and Rabi Marketing Seasons. Export of non-basmati rice has been banned and import of wheat and rice on private account at zero duty is allowed. Central issue price of wheat and rice has not been increased since 1.7.2002 to lessen burden of inflation on the poor. State Governments have been requested to maximize the procurement of rice by opening sufficient procurement centers and other necessary arrangement for procurement of paddy and its milling.

(d):In view of recent drought, the distribution subsidy on certified seeds under various programmes/schemes namely Integrated Scheme on Oilseed, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize

(ISOPOM), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA) has been enhanced with an additional estimated subsidy of Rs.288.26 Crores for distribution of certified seeds during current Rabi season.

(e):Government of India has taken several other initiatives to increase more coverage of various crops during Rabi, 2009 and also to enhance the productivity. States have been given more flexibility to utilize the funds to meet the additional demand for requirement of seed distribution component. Subsidy norms of Rice, Wheat, Jowar, Bajra and Pulses (only for Rabi/summer 2009) have been increased under various crops development schemes of Ministry of Agriculture to reduce the burden on farmers in drought affected area. Age norms of certified seed of rice, wheat and pulses have been relaxed and additional area coverage under boro/summer rice/wheat/pulses are planned for enhancing production. Additional allocation of rust resistance and terminal heat-tolerant varieties of wheat minikits has been done. Availability and supply of essential inputs such as fertilizer, additional power for irrigation has been ensured in coordination with States and various Central Ministries.