

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

**FOCUS ON HIGHER PRODUCTION FOR FORTHCOMING RABI CROPS**

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Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy

Will the Minister of COALCOALAGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether he had asked Government agencies to focus their attention towards maximizing production from the standing Kharif crop and prepare for additional production and higher productivity during forthcoming Rabi season;
- (b) whether according to recent report of the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), use of zero tillage and strip till drills for wheat cultivation in Indo- Gangetic plains which traditionally has low ground water levels can help utilizing residual moisture available after rice harvest; and
- (c) if so, to what extent his directive has been considered and to what extent steps taken will help to recoup Kharif losses?

**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): Yes, Sir. Government of India have taken several initiatives to increase more coverage of various crops during Rabi, 2009 in order to compensate the losses in kharif season to some extent and also to enhance the productivity. States are provided advisories for contingency crop planning, programmatic intervention such as use of truthful level (TL) seeds for Kharif Season only and additional power to the states. States have been given more flexibility to utilize the funds to meet the additional requirement of seed distribution. Subsidy norms of rice, wheat, jowar, bajra and pulses only for Rabi/summer2009, have been increased under various crops development schemes of Ministry of Agriculture to reduce the burden on farmers in drought affected areas. Age limit norms of certified seed of rice, wheat and pulses varieties have been relaxed and additional area coverage under boro/summer rice/wheat/pulses are envisaged for enhancing production. Additional allocations of rust resistant and terminal heat-tolerant varieties of wheat minikit have been made. Availability and supply of essential inputs such as fertilizer, additional power for irrigation has been ensured in coordination with States and various Central Ministries.

The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) has given the recommendations on Drought Management. The authority, Inter alia, `has recommended that the use of zero tillage in wheat utilize residual moisture after rice harvest, because zero tillage machines allows timely sowing of wheat on relatively moist field conditions as compared to traditional system of wheat cultivation.` In this regard, the directive has already been issued to major wheat growing States to take-up above technologies for coverage of more area to enhance the production and productivity of wheat crop. Large number of Zero till seed drill distributed to the farmers under National Food Security Mission and Farm Mechanization under Macro Management of Agriculture.