

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 04.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
WATER CRISIS IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR .

1701

Shri Khekiho Zhimomi

Will the Minister of COALCOALAGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has initiated any action plan to cope with deficiency in water, which has threatened to affect the Rabi crop;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has convened meeting of States affected by deficient rain and drought to discuss the adverse effect of draught on crop; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and outcome of the discussion?

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 (d): Yes, Sir. In order to utilize available water for raising crops, the Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD & WM) wing in the Ministry of Water Resources is implementing various major and medium command area irrigation projects in the country and also minor irrigation projects in hill states for promoting irrigation facilities to enhance production and productivity of different crops. Besides, promotion of water saving devices as such sprinkler /drip irrigation are carried out in various crop development schemes particularly under micro-irrigation scheme.

State Agriculture Ministers Conference was held on 21.8.2009 to review the position to take necessary strategies in this respect. The main outcome of above meeting, relating to deficiency of monsoon are as under;

(1) To ensure that seeds for the requisite crops are available to the State Governments. In case, it is so required, the relaxation be allowed by the Central Government for inclusion of truthfully labeled (TL) seeds under RKVY extended till Rabi, 2009.

(2) To advice NABARD to commence a drive on providing loans specifically meant for the shallow tube-wells programme, and short-term credit.

(3) KVKs and other ICAR institutions in the States would assist the State Governments in preparing advisories for the farmers, in the matter of varieties, alternative crops, pest surveillance and pesticide use, nutrient requirement.

(4) Services of Doordharshan and All India Radio would be utilized both by the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Governments to launch an awareness campaign amongst the farmers.

(5) Wherever feasible, depending upon availability of surplus power, Central Government would provided additional power from the Central pool to the States for irrigation purposes.

(6) Ensure availability of fertilizers in accordance with the requirements of the States determined during the Zonal Conference jointly by DAC, DoF and the State Governments.

(7) Central Teams have been deputed to those States which sent their Memorandum for relief assistance under the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

The above suggestions have already been taken up for implementation to enhance the productivity of Rabi crops to recoup the losses of kharif upto some extent. .

The major steps taken by Central Government in this regard are as under. States are provided advisories for contingency crop planning, programmatic intervention such as allowing use of truthfully leveled (TL) seeds and provisioning additional power to energize irrigation pumps to the States. States have been given flexibility to utilize the funds under various Central schemes to meet the additional requirement of seed distribution. Subsidy norms of rice, wheat, jowar, bajra and pulses have been increased under various crops development schemes of Ministry of Agriculture for Rabi/summer 2009-10 season. 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 has been planned for enhancing rice 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.