

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 27.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
IMPACT OF DROUGHT .

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Shri Nand Kumar Sai

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the impact of the drought on farm sector in the country is not as bad as has been expected earlier by Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the steps taken for the farm sector to deal with the drought situation in the country; and
- (d) the extent to which the farm sector has been benefited so far?

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):The erratic and irregular monsoon behaviour in the Kharif season resulted in reduction in area coverage of Kharif crops, especially of rice to an extent of 6 million hectares. During Kharif season, Ministry played a proactive role and had constantly monitored the progress of rainfall/sowing of Kharif crops in consultation with States and other relevant Ministries. Technical as well as financial assistance were offered in time and programmatic interventions were provided to enable the States to protect the standing Kharif crops as well for taking up Contingency plans for growing catch crops. The multifaceted efforts of the Ministry had helped in reducing/stabilizing the Kharif losses to some extent. Early Rabi planning for capitalizing the soil moisture of late rains (September end to 1st week of October) was facilitated by the Ministry by extending expert support to States. Additional areas under boro/ summer rice, wheat, pulses are planned to compensate the kharif losses to some extent. Boro-rice minikits were distributed in the potential eastern districts of Bihar, Assam and West Bengal for popularizing the boro rice varieties. Use of Truthfully Labeled (TL) seeds, and relaxation of age for seeds are allowed under the Government programmes. Additional wheat minikits of rust resistance, heat tolerant varieties, such as DBW-17 were distributed to cover additional areas under wheat for increased production. Area specific approach are adopted to achieve higher production through provisioning of inputs like fertilizers, credit, pest control measures, etc. in the areas with higher rainfall. Measures for tie-up for input supply, advance financial allocation and releases to the States for timely completion of Rabi operations are ensured through conferences and interactions with the States.