

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 27.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
LOSS OF FOODGRAINS PRODUCTION .

916

SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) the extent of loss of foodgrains production suffered this year by the country due to the failure of Kharif crops on account of severe drought;
- (b) in which manner Government proposes to make good the loss so as to maintain the public distribution system in the country; and
- (c) the steps which are proposed to ensure better Rabi crop for 2009 so as to offset the production loss in Kharif crops this year?

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):The Foodgrain production has been estimated about 96.53 million tones (as per 1st Advance Estimates) in the country as compared to 117.70 million tones during kharif, 2008. Loss of foodgrain has been reported due to erratic and deficient rainfall during kharif, 2009 season in major parts of the country.

(b) & (c):Minimum support price of rice has been increased from Rs.850/- and 880/- for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2008-09 to Rs.950/- and Rs.980/- (KMS 2009-10) per quintal for common and Grade `A` of Paddy, respectively with a Rs.50/- per quintal as bonus and Rs.1000/- for Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2008-09 to Rs.1080/- (RMS 2009-10) of Wheat to enhance the availability of Rice and Wheat. 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. Besides, the 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-tolerance varieties of wheat minkit is 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.