

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 27.11.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**

**IMPACT OF DROUGHT ON AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT .**

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Shri Rajeev Shukla

Will the Minister of COAL AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether impact of drought on agricultural output in this Kharif season is expected to weigh down shoots of economic recovery with first advance estimate projecting 18 per cent dip in kharif crop this year as compared to last year;
- (b) whether his Ministry estimated shortfall this year of about 21 million tonnes in kharif crop which includes rice, coarse cereals and pulses;
- (c) whether as against 117.7 million tonnes of foodgrains produced last Kharif season, estimates indicate that this year output would be somewhere around 96.63 million tonnes; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to meet shortage of foodgrains?

**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 (d): Yes, Sir. As regards shortage of foodgrains, the stock of rice in the Central Pool as on 1st October, 2009 was 149.14 lakh tonnes against the Buffer Norm of 52 lakh tonnes and strategic reserve of 20 lakh tonnes. In the Current Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2009-10, 116.74 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured as on 24.11.2009. against 106.98 lakh tonnes procured in the corresponding period in KMS 2008.09. At the estimated level of procurement of 260 lakh tonnes of rice (as informed by the Food Corporation of India), the stock of rice in the Central Pool is estimated to be sufficient to meet the current level of requirement of targeted public distribution system and other welfare scheme.