

agricultural marketing in the States. The budget component for development/strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure is met from different plan schemes being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture under Macro Management Scheme, Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Horticulture Mission, Marketing Research and Information Network (AGMARKNET), Construction of Rural Godowns, Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Grading and Standardization. The technical advice on the matters relating to agricultural marketing is rendered by the two organizations under the Ministry of Agriculture viz. Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI), Faridabad and Ch. Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, (NIAM), Jaipur.

Monitoring of Kharif crops sowing

1507. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has advised States to monitor constantly Kharif sowing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the advise is due to delay in monsoon; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, convened the meeting of the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries alongwith the technical persons of the States in the Central and Southern parts of the country on 25.6.2009 to review the impact of slow progress of monsoon on the sowings of agriculture crops and alternate plans if the current trends continues. In view of the prevalent weather conditions, the states have drawn up contingency Crop Plan for implementation, if the rains are delayed/not received by 15th July, 2009. Following this, three video conferences were held involving the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam and Bihar. On 14th July, Video Conferencing by Secretary (AMC) with Principal Secretary, Agriculture of the States of Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Bihar, Maharashtra and M.P. was organized to discuss the progress of Monsoon and the crops coverage so far.

The Government is closely monitoring the situation on day to day basis. The States have also been advised to identify the pockets of distress, if any, and take remedial measures. The Ministry also intends to increase the allocation under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and give more flexibility to States to use these Schemes to meet the contingent situation particularly for purchase and distribution of seeds for alternate crops/varieties and support for micro-irrigation etc.