

- Agricultural advisories for appropriate crop programme were telecast/broadcast through media for the benefit of the farmers.
- Scientists from ICAR Institutions, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) as well as experts of National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) helped the States in their efforts to counter the impact of deficit rainfall/drought situation, on agriculture.
- Zonal Conferences and Rabi Campaign Sponsored Programmes, like RKVY, NFSM, NHM, MMA, etc. to enable taking up agriculture reconstruction programme.

## **2. Power**

- Additional allocation Power from Central Pool to Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana and Punjab.

## **3. Fodder Position**

- On the basis of information gathered through Video Conferences held on 5th and 6th October, 2009, fodder availability position in the drought affected States is satisfactory.

## **4. Water Resources**

- Contingency Plan for enhancing water for irrigation and restricting water for other users was issued to the States by the Ministry of Water Resources.
- Weekly Monitoring of Rainfall and Storage in major reservoirs by the Ministry of Water Resources.

## **5. Drinking Water Supply**

- Activating Contingency Plan for ensuring availability of drinking water in rural & urban areas and advisory issued to all states for prudent use of available water judiciously.
- Monitoring of the Drinking Water Status in rural areas and support through Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).

## **6. Monitoring**

- Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) formed to review the conditions and take appropriate decisions to counter the impact of drought. EGoM met twice on 25th August and 17th September, 2009 and reviewed the situation.
- IMG on Drought, headed by Secretary (A&C), is reviewing the situation periodically.
- Chief Secretaries' Conference held on 8.8.2009.
- In the Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security held on 17.8.2009, situation arising out of deficit rainfall was discussed. Agriculture Minister addressed the Chief Ministers in the Conference and requested them to take appropriate remedial actions to mitigate the impact of drought.

- State Agriculture Ministers Conference held on 21.8.2009 to review the position and facilitate drawing up and implementing appropriate Agriculture & Constructive Action Plan.
- A meeting of Relief Commissioners of drought affected States held on 27th August 2009 to review measures being taken to reduce the impact of drought.
- Rabi 2009 Conference held on 24 -25 September, 2009.
- Video Conference held on 5th & 6th October, 2009 with the drought declared States including some other States viz. Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana & Gujarat to review the issues relating to drought management, preparedness for Rabi season and status of implementation and expenditure under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

**Scheme for 25 kg. rice at Rs. 3 per kg.**

199. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is proposing to issue 25 kg. of rice in a month at Rs. 3 per kg.;
- (b) if so, when it will be issued;
- (c) the financial commitment to Government by this scheme every year; and
- (d) the political implication of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Foodgrains are allocated to States/Union Territories under Targeted Public Distribution System for their distribution to ration cardholders at subsidized prices. Government proposes to enact National Food Security Act as announced by the Honourable President of India in her address to the Joint Session of Parliament on 4th June, 2009.

(b) to (d) At present, Government is examining various aspects of the proposed law.

**Implementation of PDS**

200. DR. K.MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Public Distribution Scheme would be a success when it is not well organised in many States and is subject to a lot of misuse;
- (b) the foolproof system contemplated to ensure effective and successful implementation of the scheme; and
- (c) the measures to avert political interference in terms of selection of beneficiaries and to ensure right quantity and quality at right time to the beneficiaries?