

(a) whether production of pulses in the country is declining in comparison to their consumption;

(b) the ratio of the consumption and production and import of pulses in the country during the last five years;

(c) the reasons for the declining production of pulses in the country; and

(d) whether due to low production, prices of pulses are likely to go up in the coming days?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) As per latest available data on consumption of pulses collected through the Consumer Expenditure Surveys of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), consumption of pulses in the country during 2004-05 is estimated at 10.09 million tones. Details of production and import of pulses in the country during the last five years *i.e.* 2004-05 to 2008-09 are as under:

(Million Tonnes)		
Year	Production	Import
2004-05	13.13	1.34
2005-06	13.39	1.70
2006-07	14.20	2.27
2007-08	14.76	2.84
2008-09	14.57	2.48

(c) Pulses are genetically low yielding and less input responsive as compared to other cereals and oilseeds. Major constraints on production of pulses in the country include, inadequate availability of quality seeds of improved varieties, inadequate and imbalanced use of nutrients, soil moisture stress/drought yield losses due to insect-pests and diseases, non-utilisation of full potential of rice fallows etc. besides less profitability as compared to other competing crops.

(d) The production of pulses in the country has increased from 14.57 million tones during 2008-09 to 14.74 million tones during 2009-10 (2nd advance estimates). Due to various measures taken by the Government to reduce the impact of the price rise, the retail prices of pulses such as gram dal, tur dal, masoor dal have declined over the last three months.

Monitoring of drought situation

3868. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up a strong division with adequate power and expertise in his Ministry to deal with drought as the present set up of drought monitoring cell is inadequate and ineffective to tackle drought situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) to (c) A drought Management Division and a Drought Monitoring Cell exist in the Ministry. With the availability of manpower in both the units, the impact of drought of 2009-10, spread across 338 districts in 14 states, mainly on account of deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon, 2009, was managed effectively.

Financial support to drought affected farmers in Andhra Pradesh

3869. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers affected by drought, benefited under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the total amount spent under the scheme to provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers affected by the recent drought in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the crops and areas notified in the State for the purpose of providing relief under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) and (b) During 2009-10, out of total claims approved of Rs. 801.33 crore for Kharif 2008, Rs.781.23 crore have been paid to 7.58 lakh farmers in Andhra Pradesh. Claims of Rs.36.60 crore of Rabi 2008-09 have been approved by Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) for 0.50 lakh farmers to be paid after receipt of State share. Yield data of Kharif 2009 crops have been received for major crops by AIC from Andhra Pradesh State Government and claims are being processed accordingly.

(c) Details of crops and areas notified for Kharif 2009 under NAIS in Andhra Pradesh are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of crops and areas notified for Kharif 2009 under NAIS in Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Crops	No. of Districts Notified	Name of the Districts notified
1	2	3	4
1.	Paddy	22	All Districts except Hyderabad