

South West Monsoon rainfall is precious for agriculture production in India as nearly 65% of Indian Agriculture is rain fed or depends on rain. Good rainfall in this season would positively influence the area of sowing under food grain crops and subsequently the food grain production. This is evident from the increased area sown under food grain crops during the Kharif 2010 i.e. 466.67 lakh ha so far (30.07.2010) compared to 426.94 lakh ha during the corresponding period of 2009 and 453.72 lakh ha in the year 2008.

(d) and (e) Contingent crop plan for three different scenarios of the monsoon like less rainfall, normal rainfall and excess rainfall has been prepared and issued to all State Governments for implementation as per the requirement of the state.

Under Public Distribution System it is mandated to help both the producers and consumers of food grains by linking procurement and their distribution at affordable prices.

Estimated production of foodgrains

1335. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether foodgrains production is likely to be normal this year;
- (b) if so, the estimated production;
- (c) if not, the likely deficiency;
- (d) whether any foodgrains are likely to be imported in case of deficiency; and
- (e) if so, the strategy prepared therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As per preliminary information on the trends in area coverage under Kharif crops received from State Governments during 2010-11, the area covered under Kharif foodgrains as on 30th July, 2010 is about 9% higher than the area coverage during the corresponding period of last year. Under Normal conditions, higher area coverage is expected to result in higher production of foodgrains in the country.

(d) and (e) At present level of allocations under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other Welfare Schemes and based on the procurement of foodgrains during the last two years and in the current year, the availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool is likely to be sufficient and there may not be any need to import foodgrains during the current.

Encouragement to farmers for cultivation of pulses and oilseeds

1336. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to raise Minimum Support Price (MSP) for pulses and oilseeds to encourage farmers to expand the area under cultivation for these crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is importing pulses at a higher price than that given to our farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Kharif Pulses and Oilseeds for 2010-11 season have been increased over the respective MSPs for 2009-10 season. The MSPs of kharif pulses and oilseeds for 2009-10 and 2010-11 season are given below:

Commodity	(Rs. per quintal)	
	2009-10	2010-11
Arhar (Tur)	2300	3000
Moong	2760	3170
Urad	2520	2900
Groundnut-in-shell	2100	2300
Sunflower seed	2215	2350
Soyabean		
Black	1350	1400
Yellow	1390	1440
Sesamum	2850	2900
Nigerseed	2405	2450