

Deficit monsoon

3228. DR. PRADEEPKUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the effect of deficit monsoon and made any plans to come to the rescue of States to meet the eventuality in case of still late monsoon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any State Government has requested the Central Government for providing financial assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that rainfall during 2014 South West Monsoon for the country as a whole is likely to be 93% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of $\pm 4\%$. Rainfall is likely to be 85% of LPA over North-West India, 94% of LPA over Central India, 93% of LPA over South Peninsula and 99% of LPA over North-East India, all with a model error of $\pm 8\%$. The monthly rainfall over the country is likely to be 93% of LPA during July and 96% of LPA during August, both with a model error of $\pm 9\%$.

Cumulative rainfall till 05.08.2014 was 405.3 mm which is 19% less than normal or Long Period Average (LPA) of 499.3 mm.

Government has taken several measures to address any situation arising due to deficiency in monsoon rainfall. Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 551 districts for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of weak monsoon/deficit monsoon.

States have been advised to ensure availability of short duration and drought tolerant varieties of seeds so as to be in a position to supply them to farmers in case such a need arises. States have also been advised to keep asides 10% of funds available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and other schemes for undertaking appropriate interventions to mitigate any situation arising out of deficit monsoon.

States have also been requested to construct water harvesting structures, restore irrigation infrastructure by desilting canals; energising tubewells, replacing/repairing faulty pumps and arranging power to meet irrigation needs.

Decisions have also been taken for introduction of diesel subsidy scheme, enhancement of seed subsidy, waiver of import duty on oil cakes to increase availability of feed ingredients, implementation of fodder development scheme and introducing interventions on perennial horticulture crops to cope with any eventual drought and rainfall deficit situation in the country.

(c) and (d) State Governments are empowered to initiate appropriate relief measures in the wake of drought from funds readily available with them under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is provided to the States from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as per established procedure and extant norms, upon receipt of detailed drought relief memorandum from the State Governments.

For current year (2014-15), Government of India has not received any drought relief memorandum from any State, so far.

Growth in agriculture sector

3229. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth in agriculture is estimated at 4.6 per cent during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that over the past ten years agriculture has grown by around 4 per cent a year on an average, but during most of that period the monsoons were satisfactory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (d) As per the latest estimates released by Central Statistics Office (CSO), the growth in agriculture (Agriculture and Allied Sectors) is estimated at 4.7 per cent during 2013-14.

Further, the growth rate of agriculture (Agriculture and Allied Sectors) over the past ten years *i.e.* from 2004-05 to 2013-14 is at 3.6 per cent (around 4 per cent) a year on an average.