

detailed drought relief memorandum from the State Government. So far, Government of India has not received any drought relief memorandum from Telangana.

Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 9 out of 10 districts of Telangana, except Hyderabad for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of weak monsoon/deficit monsoon.

Government has taken several measures to address any situation arising due to deficiency in monsoon rainfall in the country including Telangana. 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 and to keep aside 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 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 programme and introducing interventions for perennial horticulture crops to help farmers as to enable them to cope with any eventual drought and rainfall deficit situation in the country.

Salt tolerant crops varieties

3259. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to check soil salinity problem in various parts of the country, especially in coastal areas;
- (b) the bio-engineering measures taken up for mitigating salinity ingress in coastal areas;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to enhance soil productivity across the country;
- (d) whether Government has taken up any measures to develop any salt tolerant crops varieties for cultivation in the salinity affected areas of the country during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Ministry of Agriculture is not implementing any specific scheme for reclamation and development of coastal saline areas. However, Government of India has launched a National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which envisages reclamation of saline soils in other areas.

(b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed various measures for mitigation of salinity ingress in coastal areas through constructing structures like, reclamation bund for arresting ingress. Besides, measures like, construction of farm ponds, percolation tanks, check dams, surface and sub surface drainage, paddy-cum-fish cultivation, etc. do help in improvement of soil productivity in coastal saline areas.

(c) Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various Schemes/Missions namely; Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), etc. which do have components for addressing the issues of soil productivity like soil test based nutrient application, promotion of organic farming, judicious use of chemical and bio-fertilizers, enhancement of water use efficiency thereby improving soil fertility and productivity for sustainable agricultural production across the country.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. ICAR has developed salt tolerant variety of rice like CSR-43 and wheat (KRL-210 and KRL-213) during the last three years for cultivation in the salinity affected areas of the country.

Demand and supply of pulses

3260. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to grant certain incentives to farmers and others to grow/boost production of pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the mis-match between demand and supply of pulses in the country; and

(d) whether it is also proposed to use high-quality seeds for the purpose and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Government is implementing National