

Government of India and State Governments [including State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and Agro Meteorological Field Units (AMFUs)] to give advisories and provide services. Integrated databases (collated from different sources and organizations) of farmers are used to maximize the outreach.

More than 130 AMFUs set up by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in collaboration with ICAR and other organizations provide weather forecast based agro-met advisories. Weather forecast is done on 7 parameters including rainfall, relative humidity and cloudiness. Kisan Call Centres set up by the Government of India also disseminate this information to thousands of farmers who call up everyday. Besides this, there are some non government initiatives which include IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Limited, Reuters Market Light, Nokia Life Tools. ICAR has created a network of 100 Automatic Weather Stations in selected KVKs and SAUs for online collection of weather data and preparation of micro-level weather based agro-advisories.

(c) The above system has proved highly successful in helping the farmers all over the country. Nearly 60 lakh farmers have registered for receiving SMS messages through SMS Portal. So far more than 125 crore SMS messages have been sent to farmers in 12 languages by thousands of officers and experts of the Government of India and the State Governments (including SAUs, KVKs and AMFUs) spread across the country down to the Block level.

The AMFUs and other higher level entities of IMD have so far sent 15873 weather related advisories through 631.52 lakh messages to farmers.

In addition, 148 KVKs also sent 1,749 voice messages on different aspects of agriculture and allied enterprises to 30,752 registered farmers during 2013-14.

Saving agriculture from drought

†3263. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a possibility of weak monsoon this year;
- (b) if so, the names of the districts of the country that are likely to face drought like situation;
- (c) the plan of the Government to provide relief to people of the affected districts in view of the possibility of weak monsoon; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the steps taken by Government so as to save agriculture from drought as well as to avoid drinking water crises?

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 $\pm 8\%$.

Cumulative rainfall till 5.08.2014 was 405.3 mm which is 19% less than normal or Long Period Average (LPA) of 499.3 mm. As per information provided by IMD, out of 620 districts for which rainfall data is available, 251 (40%) have so far received normal/excess rainfall. State-wise distribution of these districts is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) State Governments are empowered to initiate appropriate relief measures in the wake drought from funds readily available under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is provided from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as per established procedure and extant norms, upon receipt of detailed drought relief memorandum from the State Government. For current year (2014-15), Government of India has not received any drought relief memorandum from any State, so far.

(d) 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/deficient rainfall.

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 deficient rainfall.

States have also been requested to construct water harvesting structures, restore irrigation infrastructure by desilting canals; energizing 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.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for rural drinking water in the wake of natural calamities, deliberating preparedness, response and relief at State, District, Block and Panchayat/village levels have been prepared and shared with States. Standard format for monitoring the activities undertaken by the States for drought mitigation has also been devised and States have been requested to provide requisite information on a fortnightly basis.

Government has already released 15% of funds earmarked for operation and maintenance (O&M) under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to States for utilizing during natural calamity such as drought for repair/maintenance of damaged water supply systems.

Statement

State-wise distribution of no. of districts with excess, normal, deficient, scanty and no rainfall (Period From: 01.06.2014 To 30.07.2014)

Sl. No.	States	Excess	Normal	Deficient	Scanty	No Rain	No Data	Total
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	1	6	2	0	4	16
3.	Assam	3	9	14	1	0	0	27
4.	Meghalaya	1	1	3	1	0	1	7
5.	Nagaland	0	1	3	2	0	5	11
6.	Manipur	1	0	1	4	0	3	9
7.	Mizoram	0	1	3	1	0	4	9
8.	Tripura	0	1	3	0	0	0	4
9.	Sikkim	1	1	2	0	0	0	4

Sl. No.	States	Excess	Normal	Deficient	Scanty	No Rain	No Data	Total
10.	West Bengal	0	11	8	0	0	0	19
11.	Odisha	6	22	2	0	0	0	30
12.	Jharkhand	3	12	9	0	0	0	24
13.	Bihar	4	7	24	3	0	0	38
14.	Uttar Pradesh	2	12	42	15	0	0	71
15.	Uttarakhand	2	5	6	0	0	0	13
16.	Haryana	0	1	11	9	0	0	21
17.	Chandigarh (UT)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
18.	Delhi	0	0	6	3	0	0	9
19.	Punjab	0	2	9	9	0	0	20
20.	Himachal Pradesh	0	5	4	3	0	0	12
21.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	5	9	5	1	2	22
22.	Rajasthan	2	11	19	1	0	0	33
23.	Madhya Pradesh	4	20	24	2	0	0	50
24.	Gujarat	1	5	20	0	0	0	26
25.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman (UTs)	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
26.	Diu (UT)	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
27.	Goa	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
28.	Maharashtra	0	17	14	4	0	0	35
29.	Chhattisgarh	3	12	3	0	0	0	18
30.	Andhra Pradesh	0	4	18	1	0	0	23
31.	Tamil Nadu	3	12	10	7	0	0	32
32.	Puducherry (UT)	2	0	0	0	0	2	4

Sl. No.	States	Excess	Normal	Deficient	Scanty	No Rain	No Data	Total
33.	Karnataka	3	15	11	1	0	0	30
34.	Kerala	0	7	7	0	0	0	14
35.	Lakshadweep (UT)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL		44	207	294	74	1	21	641

For 620 districts for

which data is available	7%	33%	47%	12%	1%
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Source : (IMD)

**Effect of International Agreement regarding public stock holding
on Agriculture Sector**

3264. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed International Agreement related to public stockholding for Food Security would affect the agriculture sector in same way; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture does not restrict public stockholding programme for food security purposes. However, if food is acquired at administered prices and not at market prices, all such price support has to be kept within a limit of 10 per cent of the value of production of the commodity in question.

India, as part of a coalition of developing countries known as the 'G-33', has proposed an amendment to this cap that is a constraint to procurement and food aid programmes in developing countries.

During 9th Ministerial Conference held in Bali in December, 2013, the finally agreed text of the Ministerial Decision provides for Members to put in place an interim mechanism and to negotiate on an agreement for a permanent solution on public stock holding for food security purposes within four years. In the interim, until a permanent solution is found and subject to certain conditions, Members will not be challenged in the WTO even if the support in respect of public stockholding programmes for food security purposes exceeds the limit of 10% of the value of production in question.