

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) As per India Meteorological Department's (IMD) second stage operational long range forecast, South West Monsoon (June-September) rainfall during 2014 is likely to be 93% \pm 4% of country's Long Period Average (LPA) of 890 mm. Government has taken several measures to address any situation arising due to deficiency in monsoon 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. 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 deficient rainfall.

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.

States have been asked to initiate appropriate location specific interventions in the event of aberrant monsoon situation based on district level contingency plans developed by Central Research Institute of Dryland and Agriculture (CRIDA).

Production of agricultural crops and their prices are generally impacted by the overall rainfall situation in the country during the monsoon season. However, the stock of wheat and rice in the Central pool is well above buffer norms and is sufficient to meet the food security requirement of the country.

Farmers leaving agriculture

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

(a) whether slow pace of growth in agricultural sector is a matter of concern for food security in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government is aware that large number of farmers have quit agriculture;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to popularize agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (e) Agriculture and allied sector grew at the rate 4.1 per cent against the targeted growth rate of 4.0 per cent during the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012). Further, as per the provisional estimates released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) on 30.05.2014, the sector is estimated to have grown at 4.7 per cent in 2013-14.

As per Census conducted by the Registrar General of India, the total number of agricultural workers in the country comprising cultivators and agricultural labourers increased from 234.1 million (127.3 million cultivators and 106.8 million agricultural labourers) in 2001 to 263.1 million (118.8 million cultivators and 144.3 million agricultural labourers) in 2011. The State/ UT-wise, number of agricultural workers are given in Statement (*See below*).

Government has taken several steps to popularize agriculture by increasing investment, improving farm practices, creating rural infrastructure and ensuring timely delivery of credit, technology and other inputs and providing remunerative prices for farm produce through increased MSPs, higher level of procurement & competitive markets.

Statement

Number of agricultural workers in India (in million)

| Sl. No. | State/ UT | Cultivators | | Agricultural Labourers | | Total | |
|---------|-------------------|-------------|--------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | 2001 | 2011 | 2001 | 2011 | 2001 | 2011 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | All India | 127.31 | 118.81 | 106.78 | 144.33 | 234.09 | 263.14 |
| 1 | Jammu and Kashmir | 1.59 | 1.25 | 0.25 | 0.55 | 1.84 | 1.80 |
| 2 | Himachal Pradesh | 1.95 | 2.06 | 0.09 | 0.18 | 2.04 | 2.24 |
| 3 | Punjab | 2.07 | 1.93 | 1.49 | 1.59 | 3.56 | 3.52 |
| 4 | Chandigarh | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5 | Uttarakhand | 1.57 | 1.58 | 0.26 | 0.40 | 1.83 | 1.98 |
| 6 | Haryana | 3.02 | 2.48 | 1.28 | 1.53 | 4.30 | 4.01 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|----|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 7 | Delhi | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.06 | 0.07 |
| 8 | Rajasthan | 13.14 | 13.62 | 2.52 | 4.94 | 15.66 | 18.56 |
| 9 | Uttar Pradesh | 22.17 | 19.06 | 13.40 | 19.94 | 35.57 | 39.00 |
| 10 | Bihar | 8.19 | 7.20 | 13.42 | 18.35 | 21.61 | 25.55 |
| 11 | Sikkim | 0.13 | 0.12 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.15 | 0.15 |
| 12 | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.28 | 0.30 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.30 | 0.34 |
| 13 | Nagaland | 0.55 | 0.54 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.58 | 0.60 |
| 14 | Manipur (Excl. 3 Sub-divisions) | 0.38 | 0.57 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.49 | 0.69 |
| 15 | Mizoram | 0.26 | 0.23 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.29 | 0.27 |
| 16 | Tripura | 0.31 | 0.30 | 0.28 | 0.35 | 0.59 | 0.65 |
| 17 | Meghalaya | 0.47 | 0.49 | 0.17 | 0.20 | 0.64 | 0.69 |
| 18 | Assam | 3.73 | 4.06 | 1.26 | 1.85 | 4.99 | 5.91 |
| 19 | West Bengal | 5.65 | 5.12 | 7.36 | 10.19 | 13.01 | 15.31 |
| 20 | Jharkhand | 3.89 | 3.81 | 2.85 | 4.44 | 6.74 | 8.25 |
| 21 | Odisha | 4.25 | 4.10 | 5.00 | 6.74 | 9.25 | 10.84 |
| 22 | Chhattisgarh | 4.31 | 4.00 | 3.09 | 5.09 | 7.40 | 9.09 |
| 23 | Madhya Pradesh | 11.04 | 9.84 | 7.40 | 12.19 | 18.44 | 22.03 |
| 24 | Gujarat | 5.80 | 5.45 | 5.16 | 6.84 | 10.96 | 12.29 |
| 25 | Daman & Diu | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| 26 | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.05 |
| 27 | Maharashtra | 11.81 | 12.57 | 10.82 | 13.49 | 22.63 | 26.06 |
| 28 | Andhra Pradesh | 7.86 | 6.49 | 13.83 | 16.97 | 21.69 | 23.46 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|----|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 29 | Karnataka | 6.88 | 6.58 | 6.23 | 7.16 | 13.11 | 13.74 |
| 30 | Goa | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.09 | 0.06 |
| 31 | Lakshadweep | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 32 | Kerala | 0.72 | 0.67 | 1.62 | 1.32 | 2.34 | 1.99 |
| 33 | Tamil Nadu | 5.12 | 4.25 | 8.64 | 9.61 | 13.76 | 13.86 |
| 34 | Puducherry | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.08 |
| 35 | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.02 |

Note: The Census 2001 figures for India and Manipur exclude that of Mao Param, Paomata and Purul sub-divisions of Senapati district of Manipur.

Source: PCA, Census of India, 2001-2011.

Price-rise of onion

400. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite largest ever harvest of onion this year, the price thereof is rising day by day; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Sir, as per figures received from State Governments, onion production in the country in 2013-14 is estimated to be about 19.3 million tonnes as compared to 16.81 million tonnes in 2012-13.

Price trends over the last few years suggest that retail prices tend to be lower during Rabi (the main production season *viz.* March-May). This year also, retail prices were at their lowest from March to May (Rs. 17-19/- per kg) and have risen from June. In the first week of July, average retail prices were Rs. 26/- per kg (as reported by State Civil Supplies departments from selected 59 centres).

The price rise in onion can be attributed to several factors such as increase in cost of input, increased transportation costs, higher consumption due to growing urbanisation, seasonality, inclement weather conditions, etc.