

Additional 10% assistance continues to be provided by the respective State Government to all categories of farmers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Uniform assistance is provided in all the states with effect from 1st April, 2014.

Impact of weak monsoon on production

1062. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made an assessment of the adverse impact of weak monsoon on foodgrains and cereal production in the country;

(b) the projected shortfall in the production of wheat, pulses, cereals and oilseeds; and

(c) whether a contingency plan has been prepared to meet the challenges and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) As per report of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), quantitatively, the monsoon 2014 seasonal rainfall is 41% deficient across the country as on 14th July, 2014.

The sowing progress of Kharif Rice, Pulses, Coarse Cereals and Oilseeds as on 11th July, 2014 is about 157.35 lakh hectares, against 269.82 lakh hectares normal (5 years average) area of corresponding period. However, the kharif crops can be sown till early August. The sowing progress is being reviewed with States on regular basis. Thus, it is too early to assess the likely production of agriculture crops during 2014-15. Wheat crop is sown in Rabi (October to December) and assessment in this regard cannot be made at this time.

(c) To tackle the deficit rainfall situation in many parts of the country in the current monsoon season, States have prepared district-wise Contingency Plans in consultation with Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), State Agricultural Universities and Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Besides, they have also been asked to ensure availability of seeds of shorter duration, drought tolerant varieties and alternate crops, availability of fertilizers, power supply and other critical inputs in time. Government is reviewing the situation with States regularly.

Farmers are also being regularly advised to adopt techniques such as *in-situ* moisture conservation and on farm water harvesting through farm ponds, etc., ridge-furrow, broad bed furrow, promoting agronomic practices like mulching, timely weed management, zero tillage practices including direct seeded rice through seed drills/drum seeder, use of short duration and drought resistant varieties of paddy like Sahabhagi Dhan, intercropping & mixed cropping with pulses/oilseeds/coarse cereals, spray of drought mitigating chemicals like thio-urea, KCL KN03 and hydrogel, etc. States have also been advised to raise community nurseries of paddy and arrange seeds of contingent crops like coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, fodder etc.

Contingency plan in wake of weak monsoon

†1063. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has worked out a contingency plan for several districts of the country in view of the weak monsoon having its effect on agriculture in the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the districts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar have also been included in this contingency plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The government has prepared agricultural Contingency Plans for 520 districts covering 23 states to tackle deficit rainfall. The information is available on the 'farmer portal' (<http://www.farmer.gov.in>) and website of CRIDA, Hyderabad (<http://www.crida.in>).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Contingency Plans for 50 districts in Madhya Pradesh, 33 districts in Rajasthan and 38 districts in Bihar have been prepared and are available on the farmer portal.

Rottening of tamatos and potatos

1064. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that huge quantity of potatos and tomatos are rotting due to lack of storage facilities;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.