

**Answer to the Rajya Sabha Question Dy. No. S3077 raised by Shri Anil Desai, regarding  
"Contingency Plan to tackle deficient rainfall"**

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**a) Whether the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that there could be deficient rainfall by eight to ten percent in July and August, 2015;**

Yes, The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) had forecasted deficit monsoon in India. The first forecast estimated that the average rainfall over the country is 93% of LPA and was revised to 88% LPA through their second forecast.

**b) if so, the contingency plan put in place by Government;**

Yes, ICAR-CRIDA along with Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) of Ministry of Agriculture of Government of India and State Agricultural Universities and KVKs prepared district wise contingency plans for 600 districts in the country and are made available on ICAR / DAC websites and to all state agriculture departments. These contingency plans contain information on crop varieties and alternate crops to be chosen in case of delay in onset of monsoon or early season drought and also on agronomic measures for mid and terminal season droughts. The plans also contain measures for allied sectors of agriculture in case of contingency scenarios.

ICAR-CRIDA along with DAC had conducted interface meetings with Department of Agriculture of various states on operationalization of contingency plans & preparedness in view of the IMD forecast. The meetings were organised during May-June 2015 in the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, as these states have been identified by IMD as prone to deficient rainfall in the season. The detailed information on the status of contingency plans is annexed (Annexure-I).

**c) Whether the Ministry has advised farmers to choose their crops wisely after a careful look at the weather forecast; if so, the details thereof?**

The Central government (through MoA and ICAR) conducted interface meetings with state departments of agriculture wherein the forecasts by IMD for respective states were shared and advised to prepare for meeting drought like scenarios through mobilization of sufficient quantity of seeds of alternate varieties and alternate crops and to monitor the weather data at district/sub district level as it unfolds for implementation of contingency plans.