

(b) The late rains have benefitted the late sown crops and brightened the prospects of Kharif crop outputs in many parts of the country. However, it is too early to arrive at the actual effect of these late rains.

(c) A rabi crop production strategy is being implemented to derive maximum benefit from these late rains, which *inter-alia* includes augmenting supply of inputs like seeds & fertilisers, and effective use of available water in the reservoirs.

(d) Under the relief measures, assistance is provided to the small and marginal farmers, whose crops have been damaged to the extent of 50 percent or more, in the form of agricultural input subsidy limited to Rs. 200.00 per hectare for the crop area damaged.

Drought in Gujarat

314. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI AMARSINGH
RATHWA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of taluqas in Saurashtra (Gujarat) severely affected by drought during the current year;

(b) whether any central team visited those Taluqas;

(c) if so, the recommendations made by the team;

(d) the details of assistance being given to Gujarat State to face the situation; and

(e) the provision made to provide drinking water available in chronically drought affected districts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) The State Government reported that all talukas of Districts in Saurashtra were affected by drought. The Central Team visited some of these talukas.

(c) and (d) Based on the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief (HLCR) thereon, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 64.78 crore has been approved for drought relief in Gujarat. In addition, Rs. 12.00 lakh for increasing vegetable production and Rs. 15.00 crore for completion of irrigation projects have also been approved under drought relief programmes.

(e) A provision of Rs. 12.66 crores has been made for drinking water in the ceiling of expenditure.

Implementation of employment programmes in Gujarat

315. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL ;
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA ;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the various rural development programmes sponsored by Union Government which are being implemented in Gujarat, particularly in drought affected areas to provide jobs to the landless labourers and small farmers;

(b) the amount earmarked for the purpose during the current year; and

(c) the quantum of foodgrains released under the "Food for Work" programme to Gujarat during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : (a) National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) are the two main employment generation programmes sponsored by the Union Government and being implemented in all the States including the State of Gujarat. These are the regular employment programmes for the unskilled rural poor and are not related to drought as such. Employment needs in rural areas of Gujarat arising out of drought are being met by special programme of works for meeting the cost of which the Union Government have sanctioned an advance plan assistance.