

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1648  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001  
LOSS DUE TO NATURAL CALAMITIES  
DHANI RAM SHANDIL

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have made an assessment of damage/loss caused in each of the districts of Himachal Pradesh due to natural calamities, heavy rains, landslide and floods during the current financial year;
- (b) if so, the details of estimated loss of crops, human lives, houses and cattle in that State, district- wise;
- (c) the details of the financial assistance sought by the State and provided by the Government, so far, to provide relief to the affected families; and
- (d) the details of short and long term measures being implemented/ proposed to be formulated to deal with such situation?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) & (b) The State Government of Himachal Pradesh had sent a memorandum seeking financial assistance in the wake of flash floods which occurred in the State between the night of July 31st, 2000 and August 1st, 2000. As per the details furnished by the State Government, the estimated loss in 12 districts of the State due to loss of crops was Rs.55.34 crores, loss of human lives was 177, cattles lost were 1673 and the value of damage to houses was Rs.15.81 crores approximately. A Central Team visited the affected areas to make an assessment of the situation during August 7-9, 2000.

(c) The State Government sought an assistance of Rs.500.00 crores from the Central Government. The memorandum submitted by the Government of Himachal Pradesh was considered in accordance with the established procedure and an assistance of Rs.8.29 crores was approved and released from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in February, 2001. This assistance was in addition to the release of Centre's share of CRF amounting to Rs.32.61 crores to the State for the year 2000-2001.

(d) Under the existing system of financing relief expenditure, the State Governments are primarily concerned with relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities including floods. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commissions appointed from time to time, the latest being Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC). In addition, Plan Schemes of various Central Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and the State itself are operated. Government of India has constituted a High Powered Committee to inter-alia review existing arrangements for preparedness and mitigation of natural and man-made disasters and recommend measures for strengthening organisational structures and also recommend a comprehensive model plan for management of these disasters at the National, States and Districts level. Besides, a 37 member National Committee on disaster management has been constituted under the chairmanship of Prime Minister to look into various aspects of natural disasters.