

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:15
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
STARVATION DEATHS
VUKKALA RAJESWARAMMA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether starvation deaths are still reported in the country especially in western Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action proposed to assist the drought hit States in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.15 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH NOVEMBER, 2000 IN THE LOK SABHA.

- (a): No such reports have been received from the State Governments.
- (b): Does not arise.
- (c): The steps taken by the Central Government to mitigate drought are briefly as under:-
 - (i) A drought Contingency Action Plan has been circulated to the drought affected States.
 - (ii) The Central Government is constantly monitoring and reviewing the drought situation and advising the States for initiating appropriate timely measures.
 - (iii) It has been decided to send Central Teams for assessment of the drought situation.
 - (iv) The due Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been released to the drought affected States.
 - (v) It has been decided to allocate additional foodgrains at BPL rate @ 20 k.g. per family unit to all the families in the drought affected areas.
 - (vi) Fund have been released under related Central Schemes for starting employment generation programmes.
 - (vii) The States have been advised to start Food for Work Programme.
 - (viii) The Department of Drinking Water Supply is constantly monitoring drinking water supply projects with a view to expediting these.
 - (ix) The Central Ground Water Board has been advised to handover exploratory tubewells to the States for the purpose of drinking water.
 - (x) The States have been advised to sensitize farmers about the scarcity of water and encourage them to go for the crops which require less water.
 - (xi) States have also been advised to open fodder depots and cattle camps wherever necessary.