

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5880

ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000

DROUGHT

MANSINH PATEL;RAGHUNATH JHA;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether number of States are reeling under the grip of recent drought on account of dry spell/shortage of water;
- (b) if so, the States which are worst affected;
- (c) whether any assessment has been made by the Union Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any action plan has been formulated;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and (g) the manner in which the Government propose to mitigate the problems of persons, live stock etc. of the affected States, particularly of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- (c) & (d) As reported by the State Governments, 17 districts in Gujarat and 26 districts in Rajasthan have been affected by the drought.
- (e) to (g) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to undertake immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. During 1999-2000, entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) was released to Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and for Maharashtra, 3 quarterly instalments of Central share of CRF were released. In addition, assistance amounting to Rs.54.58 crore to Gujarat, Rs.102.93 crore to Rajasthan and Rs.38.86 crore to Madhya Pradesh (for floods and drought) from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) was released in the wake of drought. Two quarterly instalments of Central share of CRF for 2000-01 to Gujarat and Rajasthan and one quarterly instalment to Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have also been released. Some of the other measures taken by the Central Government to mitigate the situation in the wake of drought in Gujarat and Rajasthan include requesting the Chief Ministers of neighbouring States to assist them in arranging supply of fodder on priority basis, issue of instructions by Railways for priority for transportation of fodder and drinking water, free of cost, handing over by the Central Ground Water Board a number of wells, issue of orders to release 20 kg. of foodgrains per month to each family including Above Poverty Line families at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates in the affected areas, sanction of 2 kg. per man day at BPL rates under Food for Work Programme and allocation of foodgrains to run free community kitchens in the drought affected areas, release of funds under employment generation schemes and drinking water supply scheme and assistance by the Navy. For Andhra Pradesh, one lakh MTs rice at BPL rates has been allotted for distribution to all families in the drought affected areas for the duration of drought or for three months. Further necessary action is required to be taken by the concerned State Governments. No report on drought has been received from the Government of Orissa and Maharashtra.