

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:95
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002
DROUGHT RELIEF MEASURES SUGGESTED BY CII
DADICHILUKA VEERA GOURI SANKARA RAO

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) has suggested a series of short and long term measures to help the States to cope with the drought in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.95 DUE FOR REPLY ON 25TH NOVEMBER, 2002.

(a) to (c): The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has suggested a number of short and long term measures to deal with droughts.

The short term measures include resort to short duration crops with seed subsidy, Food for Work Programme, setting up of State Level Task Forces, discontinuance of subsidy on power in Blocks with serious water scarcity, provision of uniform power for water supply, banning of inter-State movement of fodder and opening of goshalas, etc.

The long term measures essentially consist of a number of proposals for economizing water use and technological innovations in utilization of water. The other measures include sustainable land use through planting of forage crops and trees.

Many of these constitute well known strategies for managing droughts and to ensure sustainable development – these are already under implementation. There are other suggestions which need to be looked into by the State Governments, to whom these have been referred to by the CII, for examination, having regard to the local circumstances. The suggestions regarding banning of inter-State movement of fodder may not benefit the acutely drought affected States.