

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1955

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003

SHORTAGE OF FODDER IN KARNATAKA

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of acute shortage of fodder due to drought situation in Karnataka during the summer season in the current year;
- (b) if so, the number of fodder and seed banks opened in the State during the last three years and the current year so far;
- (c) the financial assistance sought by the Government of Karnataka to strengthen the said banks and boost seed production and the funds released to them during the said period; and
- (d) the steps taken to strengthen the fodder banks and boost the seed production?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) There is an overall shortage of fodder in the country, which gets accentuated in drought conditions. However, the weekly reports received from the State during May-June` 2003 did not indicate an alarming situation regarding fodder availability.

(b) Government of India released Rs. 10.50 lakhs and Rs. 13.55 lakhs for establishment of two fodder banks during 2000-01 and 2002-03 respectively. State Government has furnished the fund utilization certificate for Rs. 3.05 lakhs only. There is no provision to provide funds for a fodder seed bank.

(c) The financial assistance sought by the Government of Karnataka and funds released to them for establishment of fodder banks during last three years and current year is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year Fund sought Fund released

2000-01	21.00	10.50 (1 fodder banks)
2001-02	21.00	Nil (Utilization Certificate not received)
2002-03	21.00	13.55 (1 fodder bank)
2003-04	42.00	Nil (Utilization Certificate not received)

(d) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme on `Assistance to States for Fodder Development` has been discontinued w.e.f. 2002-03. However, the component of establishment of fodder bank has been revived till March` 2004 to facilitate the States to combat the drought.

Minikits of high yielding varieties of fodder crops are supplied to the States for onwards distributions to the farmers free of cost for fodder/fodder seed production 18151, 15151, 32830 and 6000 fodder minikits have been allotted to the Government of Karnataka during 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and current year kharif 2003 respectively. Central/State Government's fodder farms/NSC have been asked to produce more fodder seeds to cater to the demand of the farmers.