

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:141
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
STRATEGY TO COUNTER DROUGHT
Ponnuswamy Shri E.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria laid down for granting relief to the drought affected States;
- (b) whether the Government has chalked out any strategy to counter the drought in the coming year particularly in States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(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. 141 DUE FOR REPLY ON 27TH FEBRUARY, 2006.

(a) to (c): Standing arrangements exist at the Central and State levels to constantly monitor factors like rainfall, crop and cattle status, water level in irrigation reservoirs etc. to assess emergence of drought or drought like conditions at the earliest.

There are contingency plans at the Central and States` levels to deal with the situation if acute drought sets in. These include arrangements for emergency supply of drinking water through road and rail, procurement and distribution of fodder, initiation of relief employment and provision of gratuitous relief to the uncared destitute etc. Financial assistance for undertaking relief are sanctioned from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) (normal source of meeting such expenditure) and the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) (for severe calamities when provisions in CRF are not sufficient to provide relief) as per norms laid down in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commissions appointed every five years.

Besides, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research issues area-specific advisories about the alternate crops and water conservation measures etc. to be implemented at short notice to minimize loss to the agriculture sector.

Accordingly, the Central and State Governments are in readiness to deal with any situation that may arise due to aberrations in rains and consequent problems.