

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1021
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2006
ASSISTANCE FOR CALAMITIES
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been requests from State Governments to include some more type of natural and man made calamities including the death of live-stock and drinking water problems in the category of natural calamities for central assistance;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether some States have also desired to advance the date of release of central assistance meant for calamities relief and rehabilitation in the States;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a)& (b): Yes Sir,

The present Scheme of CRF has been notified by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) based on the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC). TFC had considered various suggestions made by different States relating to inclusion of some specific calamities in the list of natural calamities eligible for assistance under CRF/NCCF. These are landslides (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Tamil Nadu), soil Erosion (Assam), Heat and Cold Waves (Bihar, Haryana, Orissa), Lightning (Haryana), Pest Attacks (Punjab, Tamil Nadu), Water logging (Punjab), Bamboo flowering (Mizoram), and changes in the course of rivers (Bihar).

The Twelfth Finance Commission has however recommended the inclusion of `landslides`, `avalanches`, `cloud burst, and `pest attacks` to the extant list of defined natural calamities viz cyclone, drought, earthquake/tsunami, fire, floods, hailstorm, which are eligible for assistance from CRF/NCCF.

In the event of a number of defined natural calamities viz floods, earthquakes, cyclones, tsunami, hailstorm, `landslides`, `avalanches`, there is loss of livestock and reports of drinking water problems. There is already a provision in the extant items and norms under CRF and NCCF to provide assistance for loss of draught/milch animals and for emergency supply of drinking water.

(c)to(e): During the Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners of States held on 5th June, 2006, representatives of some States have requested for preponing the release of 1st Instalment of Central share of CRF from the month of June to the month of April.

However, the Ministry of Finance has stated that there is already a provision of funds in the State Budget, which includes a Central Share, and is available for expenditure on calamity relief by the State Government. Non-release of the 1st instalment of Central share of CRF in the month of April, as suggested by some State Governments, does not bar them from incurring expenditure on relief operations. Furthermore, in the event of a natural calamity of a severe nature, the GOI can release an instalment of Central share of CRF in advance. There is a provision in the Scheme of CRF for the States to draw, 25% of the Central share of CRF, in advance, which is due to the State in the following year, and would be adjusted against their dues, for the subsequent year. The GOI may also make an `on account` release from NCCF.