

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2299
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
SPECIAL PACKAGE TO JHARKHAND
Ram Shri Ghuran

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether lack of normal rainfall has created a famine like situation in certain districts of Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, whether request has been received from the Government of Jharkhand for special package in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the action taken by the Union Government to provide assistance to the State?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), during South-West Monsoon 2008 (June-September), Jharkhand received 1075.1 mm of rainfall against normal average rainfall of 1092.5 mm, with a deviation of -2%. Out of 15 meteorological districts in the State, two districts, namely Lohardaga and West Singhbhum received deficient rainfall. The Government of Jharkhand has so far neither reported drought situation in any part of the State on account of deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2008 nor sent any request for Central assistance in the wake of drought. Financing of relief expenditure in the wake of natural calamities in the country is carried out in accordance with the recommendations of Finance Commission, from time to time. There are two schemes for providing assistance towards immediate relief in the wake of natural calamities viz. Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). CRF has been constituted for each State and is contributed by the Government of India and State Governments concerned in the ratio of 3:1. The State Governments are required to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities out of the corpus of the CRF, in accordance with the extant items and norms. In case the natural calamity is of a severe nature and the funds available in the State's CRF account are not sufficient, additional assistance is considered from the NCCF, in accordance with an established procedure.