

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3056

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010

PLIGHT OF FARMERS

Haque Shri Mohammad Asrarul

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar has submitted a status report to the Union Government regarding the plight of farmers in Bihar on account of the scant rainfall in the current monsoon year;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to issue any guidelines to the Bihar Government in view of miserable condition of the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): The Government of Bihar has submitted a memorandum for assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to combat drought.

There is ready availability of funds with the State Government under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to take immediate necessary remedial measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. Due to deficit rainfall during South-West monsoon, 2009, Government of Bihar had declared 26 districts as drought affected and sought central assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). The Central Government has approved Rs.1163.64 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to adjustment of 75% of balance available in the State Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) account. For the year 2009-10, the Government of Bihar has an allocation of Rs.167.45 crores under the CRF which consists of the Central share of Rs.125.59 crores and Rs.41.86 crores as State's share. The entire central share has been released to the Government of Bihar.

Besides, this, the Government of Bihar has sent a claim of Rs.21.52 crores which has been approved by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation towards reimbursement of Government of India's share of expenditure incurred under the 'Diesel Subsidy Scheme' for the current financial year. Diesel Subsidy Scheme was introduced in order to mitigate the plight of the farmers in drought affected areas including Bihar.

The Government of India has also been vigorously supporting the efforts of the State Government with financial and logistical support under various schemes including Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) & Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA). Advisories were issued to the State Government on a regular basis to take appropriate steps in the wake of scanty rainfall leading to severe drought.