

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:360

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010

EFFECT OF NATURAL CALAMITIES ON AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan; Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the onslaught of floods and drought in the country has resulted in decline in agriculture production and employment opportunities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed any action plan to overcome such national calamities and for increasing agriculture production and also employment opportunities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the said action plan is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.360 DUE FOR REPLY ON 20TH APRIL, 2010.

(a) & (b): The occurrence of natural calamities has affected agriculture production and thereby also has had an indirect impact on employment opportunities. The State-wise position of estimated loss of production of foodgrains in 2009-10 over 2008-09 is at Annexure-I. The State-wise details of persondays generated during 2009-10 as compared to 2008-09 under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) indicates a rise in demand for employment under this scheme. State-wise details are at Annexure-II.

(c) to (e): It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned for taking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including floods and droughts. For such purpose, the State Governments have ready availability of funds under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The Government of India and State Government concerned contribute to this Fund in the ratio of 3:1. During 2009-10, Central share of CRF amounting to Rs.3791.87 crores was released to the States. In addition, assistance amounting to Rs.4805.745 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) has so far been approved for the drought affected States.

In addition, during Kharif 2009, the Government took various measures to mitigate the impact of drought and help agriculture production, which included introduction of "Diesel Subsidy" scheme; allocation of additional power from Central Pool in drought/deficit rainfall areas for providing supplementary irrigation to protect the standing crops; steps to ensure availability of fertilizers & seeds; release of funds under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and periodic monitoring of situation at various levels to ensure prompt action.