

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5165  
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010  
POLICY ON DROUGHT MANAGEMENT  
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the Policy on Drought Management;
- (b) the details of evaluation programme designed for drought management during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive action plan for mitigation of drought in the rainfall deficient areas of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**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(e): The policy on Drought Management envisages role of the Government in assisting the states affected by drought. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned for taking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. For such purpose, the State Government has ready availability of funds under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) {renamed as State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) with effect from 1.4.2010 on similar pattern}. The Government of India further extends financial, logistic and other support in mitigating the impact of drought.

Additional assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) {renamed as National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) with effect from 1.4.2010}, in accordance with the established procedure laid down in this regard.

There are laid down items and norms for expenditure from relief funds in the wake of natural calamities. This Department has drawn up a Crisis Management Plan (CMP) for Drought, an actionable programme, which is pressed into action in the event of a crisis situation to minimize the damage to life, property and environment. CMP is part of overall spectrum of Drought Management Plan and it defines the roles and responsibilities of various responders involved in crisis management.

During Kharif 2009, the Government took various measures to mitigate the impact of drought 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.