

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3322
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2010
AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMMES
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to accelerate its various programmes to tackle drought, floods and other such eventualities; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

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) & (b): The Government implements schemes / programmes towards enhancing the production and productivity in agriculture. Funds provided under some of the schemes could be utilized to mitigate the impact of natural calamities like drought and floods.

The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana is a State Plan Scheme and the broad objective under the scheme is to provide additional Central assistance to the States to increase public investment to achieve 4% growth rate in agriculture and allied sectors in the 11th Five Year Plan. The State Governments could utilize funds provided under the scheme to mitigate the impact of natural calamities. Likewise, the State Governments could utilize funds provided under the scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture to mitigate the impact of natural calamities.

The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is being implemented with a view to provide insurance cover and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of crops as a result of natural calamities. Based on the recommendations of the Group constituted by the Government to study the improvements required in the aforesaid insurance scheme and views of stakeholders, a proposal for Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme was prepared and approved by the Government for implementation on pilot basis in 50 districts from Rabi 2010-11 season.

With a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and maintain balance in different types of land uses, the Government is implementing various watershed development programmes, namely, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River-Valley Projects and Flood-Prone Rivers, Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils and Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas, across the country. An Integrated Watershed Management Programme is also being implemented for restoring ecological balance by conserving and developing degraded lands in the country. Evaluation of these programmes have found them to be effective in preventing land degradation as also in mitigating the adverse impact of drought and floods on crop production, in the treated areas.

Establishment and maintenance of seed bank is being implemented through State Seeds Corporations, National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India, for supplying seeds to farmers in unforeseen conditions like drought, floods and other such eventualities.