

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1350
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2011
FARMING HOLIDAY
Sugumar Shri K.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the farmers' unions had threatened to observe six months farming holiday every year for 10 years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (c): There are no specific reports regarding observation of six months farming holiday every year for ten years by farmers' unions. However, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh informed that farmers in the Central Delta Region of Amalapuram Division of east Godavari district decided not to go for Kharif crop this year and declared crop holiday, preferring to go for early Rabi. Farmers have been demanding increased subsidies on agriculture inputs, enhanced Minimum Support Price (MSP) for premier varieties, and streamlining of procurement and marketing mechanism.

State Government informed that based on the recommendations of high level committee constituted to look into the grievances of the farmers, the following remedial actions have been initiated:

- (i) For Kharif 2010 interest waiver of 7% to a tune of Rs.39.54 crore was sanctioned, released and adjusted to the accounts of farmers.
- (ii) East Godavari district was included in Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme from this year onwards. An amount of Rs.46.00 crores was released for crop insurance.
- (iii) Instructions have been given to supply an amount of 32,328 quintals of Paddy Seed on 75% subsidy.
- (iv) Andhra Pradesh Marketing Federation has been advised to supply fertilizers @ 50% subsidy (with a sum of Rs.977.59 lakh) during Kharif 2011 and Rabi 2011-12.
- (v) An amount of Rs. 501.71 lakh was allotted to east Godavari district for supply of Farm implements on subsidy.
- (vi) Besides, steps for procurement of Paddy through newly opened procurement centers, repair and maintenance of irrigation/ drainage channels, preparation of calendar of works under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guaranty Act (MGNREGA) and creation of awareness on disadvantages of crop holiday through model farmers have been initiated.