

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3178  
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012  
DECLINE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION  
Das Shri Ram Sundar;Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether there has been a decline in the production and employment opportunities in the agriculture sector due to excessive flood and drought in the country; and

(b) if so, the action plan of the Government to address the above problems in the event of natural calamities?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Vagaries of nature including natural calamities do impact agriculture, which is reflected by decline in agricultural production.

To provide relief during natural calamities, the State Governments have ready availability of funds under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional assistance, over and above the SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in accordance with the established procedure on submission of Memorandum by the affected States. There are laid down items and norms for providing relief assistance from these funds.

With a view to provide employment, the Government has introduced Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA).

Department of Agricultural and Cooperation has prepared "Agricultural Contingency Plan" to enable State Governments to take necessary contingency measures in the event of excess or deficient rainfall situation.