

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:556
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012
DROUGHT RELIEF
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any assistance has been provided for the development of agriculture and improvement of land, in the drought affected areas, in various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) the resultant achievements thereof during the above period;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to create an exclusive Drought Relief Fund; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the fund is likely to be created?

Answer

MINISTER 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. 556 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15TH MAY, 2012.

(a) to (c): Government of India is providing financial assistance to State Governments for improving productivity of agricultural land in rainfed areas, including degraded and drought affected areas under various watershed development programmes, namely; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS), Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWMP) being implemented across the country. State-wise details of financial assistance made during last three years (2009-10 to 2011-12) is Annexed.

During this period, about 16.77 million ha has been covered under these programmes.

(d) & (e): Government of India has created State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) / National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to mitigate hardships due to natural calamities including drought. There is a ready availability of funds with State Governments under SDRF to take immediate relief measures. Government of India supplements efforts of State Governments with financial assistance and logistic support. Government of India and State Governments contribute to SDRF in ratio of 3:1 for 17 General Category States and 9:1 in case of 11 Special Category States covering North-Eastern States including Sikkim and 3 hill States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir.

Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature and is approved on basis of memorandum of State Government in accordance with established procedure and extant norms. Allocation for SDRF/NDRF has been made on the basis of recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission.