

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2694
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
DROUGHT PROBLEM
Barq Shri Shafiqur Rahman

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received some important suggestions from the organisations like ASSOCHAM and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to deal with the problem of drought in some States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the response of the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has not received any specific suggestions from ASSOCHAM and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to deal with the problem of drought. However, CII had submitted the Pre-Budget Memorandum containing recommendations for Union Budget 2012-13 relating to agriculture sector. These recommendations include capital grants for projects; creation of a development fund to give boost to research, processing, storage/infrastructure projects in agriculture and food sector; provision of working capital and interest subsidy etc. CII in its Memorandum also made following suggestions to increase the productivity in agri and food supply chain:

Restructuring extension services under PPP models at National level to make services more effective.

FDI in retail to be encouraged in rural areas as this will help in upgradation of supply chain infrastructure, better products/prices to rural customers, employment etc.

Fiscal incentives to rural business hubs need to be considered in - order to provide better agri solutions to the farmers.

Increasing the scop Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS), viz. dairy farming to include large scale farms (up to 50-100 animals)

The nutrient based subsidy mechanism needs to be extended for all fertilizers, including urea as well.