

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1698
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012
NORMS FOR DROUGHT RELIEF
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has fixed any norms or the time limit of drought like conditions for declaring a State drought hit to suffice the requirements of the affected people of such drought hit States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the manner in which the expenditure on items mentioned in the revised norms of assistance under the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) and State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) is met in view of persistent and regular drought conditions in a State like Rajasthan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

- (a) & (b): Rainfall deficiency, the extent of area sown, normalized difference vegetation index and moisture adequacy index are recommended as the four standard monitoring tools which could be applied in combination for drought declaration. Since the information on these indicators and indices are available at the level of Taluk/Tehsil/Block, drought may be declared by the State Government at the level of these administrative units on the basis of observed deficiencies. At least, three indicators or index values could be considered for drought declaration.
- (c) & (d): There is ready availability of fund under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for taking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought with State Government. Additional assistance, over and above SDRF, is provided from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature in accordance with the established procedure and extant norms.