

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:308  
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013  
DAMAGE TO CROPS  
Jawale Shri Haribhau Madhav

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

- (a) whether hailstorms and untimely rains in February 2013 in various parts of the country has damaged cash crops and other crops;
- (b) if so, the value of crops damaged, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to analyse the abnormal weather pattern and forewarn the farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the research conducted by Agricultural Scientists to develop seeds which can withstand the vagaries of nature?

**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. 308 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19TH MARCH, 2013.

(a) to (e): As reported by respective State Governments, rabi crops in an estimated area of 3.24 lakh hectare (ha) in Madhya Pradesh, 3.80 lakh ha in Rajasthan and 1.48 lakh ha in Andhra Pradesh are likely to have suffered damages due to heavy rains and hailstorms during the month of February, 2013. Statewise details are at Annexure-A.

India Meteorological Department (IMD), in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other agencies, provides integrated Agromet Advisory Service (AAS) at National, State and District levels. The broad spectrum of these advisories include sowing/ transplanting of kharif crops based on onset of monsoon, sowing of rabi crops using residual soil moisture, fertilizer application based on wind condition, delay in fertilizer application based on intensity of rain, prediction of occurrence of pest and disease based on weather, quantum and timing of irrigation, advisories for timely harvest of crops etc. District level advisories include quantitative forecasts for five days on seven parameters viz. rainfall, maximum and minimum temperatures, wind speed and direction, relative humidity and cloudiness. In addition, weekly cumulative rainfall forecast is also provided.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) alongwith State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) have developed several varieties of seeds to withstand vagaries of nature such as moisture stress, drought, submergence etc.