

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:414

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013

DROUGHT RELIEF

Badal Harsimrat Kaur;M.Thambidurai Dr.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the major areas in the country which are prone to drought;
- (b) whether the Government has provided financial aid during the last one year and the current year to several drought affected States especially Maharashtra to help them tackle the impact of drought;
- (c) if so, the details of funds sanctioned and released to various States, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to create an exclusive Drought Relief Fund; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with 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. 414 DUE FOR REPLY ON 23RD APRIL, 2013.

(a) to (e): As per report of the High Level Technical Committee headed by Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao (ex. Member, Planning Commission), 74.59 million hectare area has been identified for implementation of Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP). Details are at Annexure-I.

Statewise details of central assistance approved from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for mitigating drought situation during last year and current year is at Annexure-II. In addition, Central Government has approved implementation of a special package for rejuvenation of orchards in drought affected districts of Maharashtra with an allocation of Rs.400 crore during 2012-13 under National Horticulture Mission (NHM).

Further, in view of rainfall deficit in several parts of the country during Monsoon- 2012, Govt. of India introduced several schemes such as

- (i) diesel subsidy scheme (for providing protective irrigation in rainfall deficient areas),
- (ii) enhancement of ceiling on seed subsidy (to partially recompense farmers for re-sowing/purchasing drought tolerant varieties of seeds),
- (iii) up-scaling the central sector scheme on feed & fodder,
- (iv) waiver of import duty on oil cakes,
- (v) additional allocation of funds under Accelerated Fodder Development Programme (AFDP),
- (vi) providing assistance for feed and fodder supplements under National Mission for Protein Supplements (NMPS),
- (vii) introducing drought impact mitigating interventions for perennial horticulture crops and,
- (viii) reducing interest on rescheduled crop loans to mitigate drought conditions.

Besides, additional wage employment upto 50 days per household beyond 100 days under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in drought notified areas, interim assistance under calamity component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and fast tracking release of funds under NRDWP & Integrated Watershed Management Programme etc. were also approved by Central Government.

As requirements for relief due to natural calamities including drought are met from NDRF, Ministry of Agriculture is not contemplating any proposal to create an exclusive Drought Relief Fund.