

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:382
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013
DROUGHT PRONE AREAS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of the area under continuous threat of drought in various States of the country;
- (b) whether any special authority has been entrusted with the task of initiating measures to combat drought;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the present status of the working group on drought; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to combat drought situation in the country?

Answer

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

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

(b) & (c): Government of India has constituted the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on 7th February, 2013 for effective management of drought and related issues.

(d): At present, there is no other working group on drought.

(e): State Governments are empowered to undertake imminent drought relief measures from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered and approved in accordance with established procedure as per extant norms from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), upon formal notification of drought and receipt of memorandum from the States seeking central assistance.