

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:751
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013
RELIEF PACKAGE TO FARMERS
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has demanded a package of Rs. 2000 crore to compensate for the loss caused to the farmers by excessive rains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether any fund or any other relief package was released earlier in this context; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (d): The State Governments are primarily responsible for undertaking relief measures at ground level in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing logistical and financial support. The relief in the various sectors including agriculture crops loss caused by the floods is provided under the guideline of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), in accordance with the items & norms approved by the Government of India. These norms inter-alia provide for assistance to the farmers for desilting of agricultural land, agriculture input subsidy for damage caused to crops. In addition to regular schemes of crops damage, the farmers are also entitled for compensation under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, which is implemented by the State Government.

However, the financial assistance from response fund is towards relief and not for compensation of loss. The main objective of the response fund is to assist the affected persons to start their economic activities again. The relief is by way of gratuitous assistance as an immediate help to overcome the stress.

In the instant case, the Government of Maharashtra had submitted a memorandum projecting the demand of Rs.2841.78 crore for floods during 2013. The High Level Committee (HLC) in its meeting held on 24.10.2013, inter-alia, considered the memorandum of the State, the report of Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) and recommendations of the sub-committee of National Executive Committee (NEC) thereon as well as the extant items and norms of assistance from SDRF/NDRF, and approved Rs.921.98 crore from NDRF, subject to adjustment of 75% of balance available in the State SDRF amount for instant calamity. This included an amount of Rs.836.37 crore towards damages in agriculture sector due to the floods of 2013. The entire approved amount of Rs.921.98 crore (Rs.192.175 crore, from SDRF=Rs.729.805 crore from NDRF) has already been released to the State of Maharashtra by Government of India on 20.11.2013.