

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:261

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009

EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil;Muttamwar Shri Vilas Baburao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the rate of employment as well as employment opportunities in the agricultural sector have dwindled due to the drought conditions in several parts of the country including the Vidarbha region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to create employment opportunities in the agricultural sector;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps for empowering women in agriculture by making special provisions for them under the existing agriculture related schemes/programmes being implemented in the country including in Vidarbha;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 261 DUE FOR REPLY ON 8TH DECEMBER,2009.

(a): Due to the deficit rainfall during the South West Monsoon 2009, the agriculture operations were affected in several parts of the country,including Maharashtra.

(b) to (d): Due to deficit rainfall situation during South West Monsoon-2009, 13 States viz.,Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh,Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh declared drought / scarcity / drought like conditions in 316 districts.To reduce the impact of drought situation in the country by taking appropriate remedial measures,the Central Government approved a sum of Rs. 4073.785 crores from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, subject to adjustment of 75% of the balance available with the States under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and also released the instalments of central share under CRF to the states to the tune of Rs. 2117.46 crores.

The Government has taken a number steps to mitigate the impact of drought on agricultural sector to sustain agricultural production and thereby availability of adequate employment opportunity. This includes providing of diesel subsidy and additional power from the Central Pool to protect the standing crops in the field; making available funds under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and adequate amount of relevant agricultural inputs to the States to enable taking up of alternate crop plans in the germination failed / unsown areas and taking of early Rabi.

Keeping in view the drought/scarcity/drought like conditions during the current year,the Government has increased the limit of 100 days of guaranteed employment under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme by additional 50 days from CRF/NCCF. There are a number of centrally sponsored programme, under which fund is made available to the States to create agriculture infrastructure and adopt appropriate crop strategy to achieve higher agricultural production. These programmes are implemented by the States. Advisories have been issued to ensure that 30% of the benefit flows to the women beneficiaries.