

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:76
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009
LOSS OF CROPS DUE TO DROUGHT
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara; Tarai Shri Bibhu Prasad

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether drought has been declared in several parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of districts and total agriculture area affected alongwith the likely loss of crops, State-wise;
- (c) whether the States have sought assistance/relief package to tackle the drought situation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to deal with the impact of drought on agriculture and farmers;
- (f) the criteria adopted for declaring an area as drought hit;
- (g) whether the central team/ an Empowered Group of Ministers for assessment of drought situation has submitted its report; and
- (h) if so, the details of its findings thereof and action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 76 DUE FOR REPLY ON 24-11-2009.

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): 12 States have declared drought / scarcity / drought like conditions covering 301 districts. The number of districts declared affected by drought/ scarcity/drought like conditions is as under:

Andhra Pradesh (Drought)	22 districts
Assam (Drought-like situation)	27 districts
Bihar (Drought)	26 districts
Himachal Pradesh (Drought)	12 districts
Jharkhand (Drought)	24 districts
Karnataka (Drought)	20 districts
Madhya Pradesh (Drought)	37 districts
Maharashtra (Drought)	28 districts
Manipur (Drought)	9 districts
Nagaland (Drought-like situation)	11 districts
Rajasthan (Scarcity)	27 districts
Uttar Pradesh (Drought)	58 districts

The State-wise loss in area and production of Kharif crops during 2009-10 (as compared to Kharif 2008-09) is at Annexure-A.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. All 12 drought affected States have sought assistance to tackle the drought situation in the State. The States have, inter alia, sought assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) / National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF); additional power allocation from the central pool; relaxation in subsidy norms for seed distribution under various central schemes; subsidy for diesel for running pumpsets for irrigation of the standing crops; additional allocation of foodgrains etc.

(e) The Government has taken several important decisions to address the drought which, inter alia, are, constitution of an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) to review the condition and take appropriate decisions to counter the impact of drought; providing assistance to the States to save the standing Kharif crop through providing additional power from central pool, diesel subsidy, etc; increasing upper ceiling of distribution subsidy on certified seeds under Government of India programmes to enable increase in area under Rabi cultivation to compensate for likely loss in Kharif; providing assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) / National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to the affected States for agriculture input subsidy and other relief measures etc; and regular review with all concerned Central Ministries/ Departments and State Governments.

(f) Declaration of drought is the domain of the State Government and as per practice in vogue, the State Governments declare drought after considering various factors including deficiency in rainfall, availability of water for agriculture and other purposes, estimated loss of crops due to deficit rains, etc.

(g) & (h): Yes, Madam. Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCT) have visited all the 12 drought affected States and submitted their reports (except for Andhra Pradesh). On the basis of these reports, the Central Government has so far approved total assistance of Rs. 4073.785 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), inter alia, has been mandated by the Government to take decisions on policy issues and schemes required for effective management of drought / deficit rainfall and related issues. It has been meeting from time to time, and taken important decisions such as relaxation of criteria for diesel subsidy, enhancement of upper ceiling of distribution subsidy on seeds, enhancement of number of days of employment beyond 100 days for additional 50 days through funds from Calamity Relief Fund.