

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6853
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2015
POVERTY AND STARVATION IN RURAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether due to drought, starvation and poverty are rampant in various States including Maharashtra and agriculture labourers are not earning any income as a result thereof;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ameliorate the situation in various States including Maharashtra?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a)to(c) As per the estimates of erstwhile Planning Commission for the years 2004-05 and 2011-12, the percentage of persons living below the poverty line in India has come down from 37.2% in 2004-05 to 21.9% in 2011-12. The State-wise percentage of persons living below the poverty line is given in Annexure.

During the year 2014-15, due to deficient monsoon, 21 districts in Haryana, 44 districts in Uttar Pradesh, 9 districts in Karnataka, 26 districts in Maharashtra and 7 districts in Andhra Pradesh were declared drought affected by the State Governments. The State Governments have submitted detailed Memoranda seeking financial assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for drought relief. Based on the report submitted by Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) Government of India approved Rs. 777.34 crore to Uttar Pradesh, Rs. 200.35 crore to Karnataka, Rs. 168.87 crore to Haryana and Rs. 1962.99 crore to Maharashtra from NDRF in wake of drought.

The Department of Land Resources had been implementing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) now called Watershed Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) for development of rainfed/degraded areas in the country including Maharashtra. The major activities taken up under IWMP, inter alia, include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for asset less persons. As on 31.03.2015, the Department of Land Resources has sanctioned 8214 projects covering an area of 39.07 million ha and released Rs. 11032.20 crore as central share to the States under IWMP, including Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, a total of 1186 projects covering an area of 5.128 million ha with a total cost of Rs. 6517.49 crore have been sanctioned and Central Assistance of Rs 1534.46 crore released for implementation of these projects.