

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:381
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015
CROP LOSS DUE TO NATURAL CALAMITIES
Antony Shri Anto ;Patil Shri A.T. (Nana)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of farmers have committed suicide on account of failure/ damage of agricultural crops, vegetables and fruits due to natural calamities including unseasonal rains and hailstorms during the last six months, if so, the details thereof along with the loss of lives and damage to agricultural crops, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Central teams have visited the affected States/UTs and if so, the reports submitted by the said teams;
- (c) the amount of compensation/relief sought by the affected States and the amount of assistance provided by the Union Government during the said period;
- (d) whether the quantum of relief/ compensation given by States/Union Government for loss of crops due to such natural calamities is insufficient and farmers have requested to enhance the relief amount; and
- (e) if so, the measures taken by the Union Government to revise the norms and amount of assistance for crop loss in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 381 DUE FOR REPLY ON 21ST APRIL, 2015.

(a) to (c): The State Governments provide information on suicides by farmers due to agrarian distress. As per the reports received from some State Governments namely, Punjab, Karnataka, Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, there have been no incidents of farmers suicide due to agrarian distress caused by recent untimely rains and hailstorms. However, Government of Maharashtra has reported three cases of farmers suicide due to untimely rains and hailstorm during the period January to March, 2015.

In the month of February- March 2015 many States like Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttara- khand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal, Telangana and Kerala were hit by hailstorm followed by untimely rainfall. As per inputs received from States, State-wise crop area affected due to hailstorm and unseasonal rains in country on the basis of preliminary assessment is annexed.

As State Government is empowered to undertake necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities like, drought, hailstorm, pest attack & cold wave/frost from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily available with them, State Governments have been requested to take immediate steps to address the notified calamities by utilizing the funds available under SDRF. They were also advised to submit memorandum as per extant procedure/norms, if additional financial assistance is required from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and in the mean time utilize contingency fund of the State, if SDRF is exhausted. Memoranda have been received from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana demanding Rs.744.48 crores, Rs.8252 crores and Rs.1135.91 crores from NDRF, respectively. Inter Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) had visited the States of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan and assessed the ground situation.

(d) & (e): The norms of assistance, is reviewed normally after the award of successive Finance Commission. Taking into account various factors includ- ing the price rise, the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued order on revised items and norms of assistance under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) on 8th April, 2015.

The extant norms inter-alia provide for assistance to the farmers in the form of Agriculture Input Subsidy (where crop loss is 33% and above) for damage caused to all types agriculture and horticulture cropped areas due to the notified natural calamities. There are Rs.6,800/- per ha. for rainfed crops, Rs.13,500/- per ha. for assured irrigated crops, subject to minimum assistance not less than Rs.1000 and restricted to sown areas and Rs.18,000/- per ha. for all type of perennial crops, subject to minimum assistance not less than Rs.2000/- and restricted to sown areas, where crop loss is more than 33% and above. Financial assistance under SDRF/NDRF in the wake of natural calamities is by way of relief and is not for compensation of loss as suffered. However, in addition to the

assistance available under the regular schemes of crops damage, the calamity affected farmers are entitled for claims under various crop insurance schemes under implementation in the country.