

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:23

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

Khairi Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Sreeramulu Shri B.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of drought affected districts in the country;
- (b) the number of farmers reportedly committed suicide due to drought in Maharashtra;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to grant any special package to mitigate the situation arising out of the deficit rainfall/weak monsoon in various States; and
- (d) if so, the details of the funds allocated for the purpose during the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(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. 23 DUE FOR REPLY ON 25TH NOVEMBER, 2014.

(a): During Kharif 2014, States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka have declared drought in 21 districts, 44 districts and 9 districts respectively. Government of Maharashtra has also reported 22 districts as drought affected due to shortfall in monsoon rainfall. State wise details of drought declared districts is at Annexure-A.

(b): In Maharashtra, 608, 642 and 407 cases of farmer suicides due to agrarian crisis have been reported during the year 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. State Government has not reported any specific incidence of farmer suicide separately on account of drought during 2014.

(c) & (d): In the eventuality of drought, State Governments are empowered to initiate necessary relief measures from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily available with them. Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) on receipt of drought relief memoranda from State Governments and in accordance with extant norms and procedures.

To deal with challenges posed by delayed and aberrant monsoon and in the wake of shortfall in sowing of major crops during kharif-2014, Government has taken following measures:

- a) Implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme for protective irrigation of crops with an allocation of Rs. 100 crore;
- b) Enhancement of ceiling on seed subsidy to partially recompense the farmer for the additional expenditure incurred in resowing and/or purchasing appropriate varieties of seeds;
- c) Implementation of drought mitigating interventions on perennial horticulture crops with an additional allocation of Rs. 700 crore under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH);
- d) Implementation of Additional Fodder Development Programme (AFDP) as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an allocation of Rs. 100 crore during 2014- 15 for ensuring availability of fodder;
- e) Waiver of duty on import of de-oiled soya extract, groundnut oil cake, sunflower oil cake, canola oil meal, mustard oil cake, rice bran and palm kernel cake to increase availability of feed ingredients.

In addition, States were advised to keep aside 10% of funds available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and other schemes for undertaking appropriate interventions to mitigate any situation arising out of deficient rainfall.