

Title : Need to send a central team to Punjab to assess the losses incurred by the potato growers in the state due to severe cold and provide adequate compensation to the affected farmers.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (SANGRUR): The severe cold and dipping temperature in January, 2006 has damaged 35000 to 40000 hectares of and potato crop in Punjab. The damage is estimated to 35-45% in Kapurthala and Jalandhar Districts which account for 90% production of potato in Punjab. Delhi gets about 1000 tonnes of potato daily from Punjab. Farmers growing potatoes in Punjab under contract farming from MNCs which manufacture chips, are the worsts effected. Their crops are not covered under Crop Insurance Scheme.

I would request the Central Government to send a central team to Punjab to assess the loss and provide adequate compensation to the affected farmers.