

with a deviation of (-) 36%. Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions in the country, 2 received excess rainfall, 9 received normal rainfall, 19 received deficient rainfall and the remaining 6 received scanty rainfall.

Declaration of drought is made by the respective State Governments taking into account various factors. This year, the Government of Manipur and Jharkhand have so far declared the drought affected areas in their State.

(c) and (d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States with financial and logistic support. Financing of relief expenditure is carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commission. Funds are readily available with the State Governments under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India and State Government concerned contribute to this Fund in the ratio of 3:1. Additional assistance, over and above the CRF, is considered from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), for natural calamities of severe nature, in accordance with an established procedure and on submission of Memorandum by the affected State. There are laid down items and norms for assistance from CRF/NCCF, for provision of assistance to the affected persons in the wake of natural calamities.

Implementation of debt-waiver scheme in Kerala

1511. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount spent in Debt waiver and Debt-relief scheme 2008, in Kerala;
- (b) whether Government of Kerala has requested to include farmers who have settled their dues before 29th February, 2008, also in the scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Plan to provide fair price to farmers for their produce

†1512. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated/is formulating any new plan to provide fair price to farmers for their produce;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the efforts made in this regard during the last three years to remove the middlemen and the amount of success achieved thereby;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.