

(d) The Agricultural Marketing is a State subject and it is upto the States to decontrol and allow free movement of fruits, vegetables, pulses, etc.

Relief to drought-hit UP and Bihar

1694. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received proposals for compensation to drought hit districts in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of districts declared drought hit in these States;

(c) whether Government has collected data of loss of life and property in such districts by central teams, sent to these districts; and

(d) if so, the details of funds provided to above States by Government for drought affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) During 2009-10, the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar declared 58 districts and 26 districts, respectively, as drought affected. Entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2009-10 amounting to Rs.249.55 crore to Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 125.59 crore to Bihar have been released for taking immediate necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) were deputed to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for assessment of the drought situation and requirement of Central assistance. Taking into account the recommendations of IMCTs, the Government approved Rs.515.05 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to Uttar Pradesh and Rs.1163.64 crore from NCCF to Bihar. The approved amounts indicated above are subject to adjustment of balances available in the CRF of these States, as determined by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Decline in area under apple farming

1695. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land under apple farming during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the area under apple farming is continuously declining;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase the apple production in the country?