

In order to reduce the dependence of farmers on private money lenders, the Government has taken several measures to improve agriculture credit flow from institutional credit sources. These measures, *inter alia*, includes fixation of annual targets for improving agricultural credit flow, provision of crop loans upto Rs. 3.00 lakh @ 4% per annum to such farmers who repay their loan as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, extension of benefit of interest subvention scheme to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period upto six months for storing their produce in warehouses against negotiable warehouse receipts, collateral free loan upto Rs. 1.00 lakh, implementation of revival package for short term cooperative credit structure in the country etc.

#### **Drought in Andhra Pradesh**

2485. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the drought in Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that help is provided to farmers of these districts and to prevent labour shortage in farms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh declared drought in 22 districts in 876 mandals including Guntur and Prakasam, during 2011 and submitted a detailed Memorandum seeking financial assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

(c) The Government of India has approved an amount of Rs.706.15 crores for Andhra Pradesh from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) subject to the adjustment of 75% of balance available in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and also release of Rs. 8.00 crore from Special Component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for repair of damaged drinking water supply works in Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Requirement of foodgrains under food security bill**

2486. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA:

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether massive investments are needed in the agriculture sector to meet the requirements of the Food Security Bill;

(b) if so, the measures taken to achieve the challenge of providing food to all;