

(c) and (d) Governments of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana have sent memoranda seeking central assistance in the wake of drought like situation. State Governments initiate necessary relief measures in wake of natural calamities including drought from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily available with every State. State-wise allocation under SDRF for the period 2010-15 is given in Statement. [Refer to the Statement-III Appended to the Answer to USQ 776, Part (c) and (d)] Government of India supplements efforts of State Governments by providing requisite financial and logistic support. Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is also provided from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature, as per established procedure and extant norms.

Ministry of Home Affairs has reported that Government of Assam has submitted memorandum seeking additional assistance in the wake of flood/landslide. Entire central share of Rs. 261.73 crore has been released to Government of Assam under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for 2012-13. For 2013-14, Rs. 68.64 crore has been released in advance under SDRF, Rs. 45.00 crore has also been released from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

Adverse impact of pests on agricultural production

782. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the menace of pests is having adverse impact on the agricultural production;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that this menace is growing year by year, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Pests, if controlled and managed properly, will have little adverse impact on agricultural production. Following steps have been taken to strengthen Pest Control Management in agriculture sector of the country:—

- (i) Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) is implementing a scheme “Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India” (SMPMA) since 1991-92 by adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as cardinal principle and main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme.
- (ii) Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one UT.

- (iii) The mandate of these Centres is pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and Human Resource Development in IPM by imparting training to Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and farmers at grass root level by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) in farmers' fields. Basic aim of FFS is to train the farmers on the latest IPM technology so that they are able to take decision in pest management operation. In FFSs farmers are also trained about judicious use of pesticides on their crops so that crop can be grown with minimum use of pesticides.
- (b) No, Sir. The pest menace is under control in Andhra Pradesh.
- (c) and (d) Do not arise.

Organic farming

783. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of area of arable land producing foodgrains and vegetables in the country;
- (b) the percentage of land which has been brought under organic farming; and
- (c) the steps being taken to increase the percentage of such land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The total area of arable land producing foodgrains and vegetables are 122.731 million hectare and 6.026 million hectare in year 2009-10.

(b) Total 0.76% land of 141 million hectare of cultivable land has been brought under organic farming.

(c) Government is promoting Organic Farming through various schemes viz. National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) for increasing of percentage of such land. Under NHM financial assistance is provided for setting up of vermi-compost units @ 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per beneficiary; funds are also provided @ 50% of the cost subject to maximum of Rs. 10,000 per hectare for a maximum area of 4 hectare per beneficiary or adoption of organic farming. Similar norms of assistance are applicable for assistance given under RKVY. Under National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), financial assistance is also provided as back ended subsidy through NABARD for setting up/strengthening of existing Bio-fertilizer and/or Bio-pesticide Production Units, assistance upto 25% of total financial outlay or Rs. 40.00 lakh; and for setting up of Fruit and Vegetables Wastes/Agro-Wastes Compost Production Units @ 33% of total financial outlay or Rs. 60.00 lakh, whichever is less.