

Drought in the country

†1412. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are drought like conditions in the country due to deficient rain fall; and

(b) if so, the number of such States whose drought condition is brought to the notice of the Central Government and the action being taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) States which have so far received deficient/scanty rainfall are Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland. Significant shortfall in area coverage under sowing of various crops has been reported from the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Karnataka. Governments of Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana have sent memoranda to Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India seeking Central assistance. However, only Governments of Karnataka, Rajasthan and Gujarat have declared drought in 142 talukas, 5 districts and 132 talukas respectively. Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) has been constituted to visit the drought affected areas to assess loss/damage caused due to drought and recommend financial assistance.

Assistance to drought affected States

1413. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is in the grip of serious drought;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise:

(c) whether Government has made any assessment of the drought affected States; and

(d) the details of assistance being given to the drought affected States by Government to tackle the problem?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.