

Rs.3 lakh, whereby effective rate of interest for such farmers has come down to 4% per annum.

- (vi) Announcement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for identified agricultural commodities every year to ensure remunerative price and increase farmers' income.

Other measures taken by the Government, *inter-alia*, include significant increase in public investment in agriculture sector through implementation of various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Micro Irrigation, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize, Macro Management of Agriculture, Technology Mission on Cotton, National Bamboo Mission, Integrated development of 60,000 pulses villages in rain-fed areas, extending Green Revolution to Eastern India, National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility, Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms etc.

(f) and (g) As per Census of India 1991, number of agricultural workers was 185.3 million, comprising 110.7 million cultivators and 74.6 million agricultural labourers. As per Census of India 2001, number of agricultural workers was 234.1 million, comprising 127.3 million cultivators and 106.8 million agricultural labourers.

Drought in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

2174. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have sent proposals for drought relief package including the States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of drought package announced and released by Government, so far, State-wise with particular reference to Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the details of other steps Government would take as relief measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Governments of Karnataka (142 out of 176 talukas), Rajasthan (5 out of 33 districts), Gujarat (132 talukas in 17 out of 26 districts) and Maharashtra (122 out of 355 talukas) have declared drought. These States have submitted memoranda seeking assistance of Rs. 11488.96 crore, Rs.7424.13 crore, Rs.18673.37 crore and Rs.3011.61 crore respectively. Inter-Ministerial Central

Teams have been constituted to visit these States to assess the situation. Government of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have not declared drought so far.

(d) With a view to provide relief to farmers, decisions have been taken for implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme, enhancement of subsidy on seeds, channelising funds available under various flagship schemes for drought relief activities, up-scaling Central Sector Scheme on feed and fodder, waiver of import duty on oil cakes, release of interim assistance under calamity component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), release of funds under NRDWP and Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), allocation of additional power from central pool to States etc.

Affects of drought on coarse-grains cultivation

†2175. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the deficient rainfall during monsoon has created drought like situation in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that cultivation of coarse cereals is likely to be the worst affected by drought;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the scheme contemplated by Government to address the shortage of coarse cereals in such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) India Meteorological Department (IMD) reports that as on 27th August, 2012, the rainfall departure for the country as a whole is (-)13%. Out of the 36 Met Sub-Divisions in the country, 23 received normal rainfall (+19% to -19%), 12 received Deficient rainfall (-20% to -59%) and 1 received Scanty rainfall (-60% to -99%). State-wise details of south west monsoon, 2012 is given in Statement (*See below*). Governments of Karnataka (142 out of 176 talukas), Rajasthan (5 out of 33 districts), Gujarat (132 talukas in 17 out of 26 districts) and Maharashtra (122 out of 355 talukas) have declared drought so far.

(c) to (e) As on 24th August, 2012, coverage of 165.34 lakh ha has been reported against 194.24 lakh ha normal sown area (during the corresponding period) under coarse cereals leading to a deficit of 28.9 lakh ha. Less area is reported in the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.