

Kharif-2012. As Uttar Pradesh has not declared drought during Kharif-2012, no central team was deputed to visit the State.

State Governments are vested with the authority to initiate appropriate relief measures from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in the wake of drought. Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) on receipt of memoranda from State Governments concerned and assessment of the Inter Ministerial Central Teams in accordance with established procedure and extant norms.

In view of rainfall deficit in several parts of the country during Monsoon-2012, Government of India introduced several schemes such as (i) diesel subsidy scheme (for providing protective irrigation in rainfall deficient areas), (ii) enhancement of ceiling on seed subsidy (to partially recompense farmers for re-sowing/purchasing drought tolerant varieties of seeds), (iii) up-scaling the central sector scheme on feed & fodder, (iv) waiver of import duty on oil cakes, (v) additional allocation of funds under Accelerated Fodder Development Programme (AFDP), (vi) providing assistance for feed and fodder supplements under National Mission for Protein Supplements (NMPS), (vii) introducing drought impact mitigating interventions for perennial horticulture crops and (viii) reducing interest on rescheduled crop loans to mitigate drought conditions.

Besides, additional wage employment upto 50 days per household beyond 100 days under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in drought notified areas, interim assistance under calamity component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and fast tracking release of installments under NRDWP and Integrated Watershed Management Programme etc. were also announced by Central Government as drought relief measures.

#### **Companies to start their own colleges**

\*214.DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has taken a decision to allow public/ private limited companies and industries with at least Rs. 100 crore turnover to start their own colleges and educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any companies have come forward to avail this opportunity to start their own colleges; and

(d) if so, the details of companies which have responded and submitted applications in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI. M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has allowed Private Limited or Public Limited Companies/Industries with Rs. 100 Crores turnover for the last three years to establish a new Technical Institution under section 25 of companies Act in Engineering and Technology, Pharmacy, Architecture & Town Planning and Hotel Management and Catering Technology (HMCT). All requirements to set up an institute are the same as for any other applicant including formation of a Society registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860, a Trust registered under the Charitable Trusts Act 1950 or any other relevant Acts or a company established under Section 25 of companies Act 1956. Such Institutes shall be governed by the rules as in Chapter-I of the Approval Process Handbook 2013-14. The detailed procedure for approval is given in the Approval Process Handbook 2013-14 issued by AICTE which is available in the website <http://www.aicte-india.org>.

(c) and (d) AICTE has started the process of inviting online applications for establishment of Colleges under the scheme and last date for receiving application is 30.12.2012.

#### **Vulnerability from dominance of a telecom firm**

\*215. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a telecom firm situated at Gurgaon having links with cyber warfare agency and the army of a big neighbouring country has captured over 60 per cent of India's telecom sector;

(b) whether Indian intelligence agencies have raised concern over the dominance of the said telecom firm; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government to combat the vulnerability caused by the said telecom firm?