

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS****Starvation deaths in Tamil Nadu**

1. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of starvation deaths reported due to drought situation in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether Central Government pays compensation to families in such cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Government of Tamil Nadu has not submitted any memorandum nor reported any starvation deaths due to drought situation in that State.

(c) and (d) As per extant norms, Ex-Gratia payment to families of persons deceased due to natural calamity is admissible under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) @ Rs. 1.50 lakh per deceased person including those involved in relief operations or associated in preparedness activities, subject to certification regarding cause of death from appropriate authority. In addition, gratuitous relief for families in dire need of immediate sustenance @ Rs. 30 per adult and Rs. 25 per child is admissible under SDRF and NDRF for families not housed in relief camps based on certification by the State Government that:

(i) these persons have no food reserve, or their food reserves have been wiped out in the calamity; and

(ii) identified beneficiaries are not housed in relief camps.

The period for providing gratuitous relief will be as per assessment of the State Executive Committee (SEC) and the Central team (in case of NDRF). The default period of assistance will be upto 30 days, which may be extended upto 60 days in the first instance, if required, and subsequently upto 90 days in case of drought/pest attack.