

East and Himalayan States (HMNEH). MIDH provides support for seed production, vegetable cultivation, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)/ Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic farming. Assistance is also extended for establishment of low cost onion storage structure to prevent post harvest losses.

- Government is also implementing the Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) under the overall aegis of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). VIUC interventions for rural areas include production of vegetable seeds and seedling, seed infrastructure, protected cultivation, post harvest management, training of farmers, and support to Farmers' Producer Organizations and Farmers' Producer Companies.
- In addition, the Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM) also provides for creation of post harvest infrastructure including storage.

Drought condition in Telangana

3258. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed the severe drought condition in almost all the districts of Telangana;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of 464 mandals, only 43 mandals have got average rainfall; and

(c) if so, how Central Government is planning to help the farmers of Telangana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) As per information of India Meteorological Department (IMD), cumulative seasonal monsoon rainfall in Telangana till 5.08.2014 was 214.4 mm which is 48% less than normal or Long Period Average (LPA) of 411.0 mm. As per information made available by Government of Telangana, 43 out of 464 mandals of the State have received normal/excess rainfall during the period from 1.06.2014 to 5.08.2014.

(c) State Government is empowered to initiate appropriate relief measures in the wake of drought from funds readily available under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is provided from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as per established procedure and extant norms, upon receipt of

detailed drought relief memorandum from the State Government. So far, Government of India has not received any drought relief memorandum from Telangana.

Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 9 out of 10 districts of Telangana, except Hyderabad for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of weak monsoon/deficit monsoon.

Government has taken several measures to address any situation arising due to deficiency in monsoon rainfall in the country including Telangana. States have been advised to ensure availability of short duration and drought tolerant varieties of seeds so as to be in a position to supply them to farmers in case such a need arises and to keep aside 10% of funds available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and other schemes for undertaking appropriate interventions to mitigate any situation arising out of deficit monsoon.

States have been requested to construct water harvesting structures, restore irrigation infrastructure by desilting canals; energising tubewells, replacing/repairing faulty pumps and arranging power to meet irrigation needs.

Decisions have also been taken for introduction of diesel subsidy scheme, enhancement of seed subsidy, waiver of import duty on oil cakes to increase availability of feed ingredients, implementation of fodder development programme and introducing interventions for perennial horticulture crops to help farmers as to enable them to cope with any eventual drought and rainfall deficit situation in the country.

Salt tolerant crops varieties

3259. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to check soil salinity problem in various parts of the country, especially in coastal areas;
- (b) the bio-engineering measures taken up for mitigating salinity ingress in coastal areas;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to enhance soil productivity across the country;
- (d) whether Government has taken up any measures to develop any salt tolerant crops varieties for cultivation in the salinity affected areas of the country during the last three years; and