

In addition, Government of India has launched Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Programme under the Sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in 2012-13 which seeks to bring in more farming areas under protective irrigation. ₹ 600 crore has been released so far under the scheme.

Statement

(₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	Calamity	Year	Damand by the State Govt.	Assistance approved by the GOI
1.	Drought	2012-13	K-3232.15	778.09
			R-1801.32	1036.98
2.	Hailstorm	2013-14	4475.76	552.88
3.	Drought	2014-15	6013.28	1962.99

K-Kharif

R-Rabi

Absence of market facility for potato growers

138. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that during current crop season potato growing farmers are compelled to sell potato at rate of around 60 paise to ₹ 1 per kg.;

(b) whether Government is also aware that potato of thousands of farmers rotted lying on roads in absence of proper market facility in eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and other States;

(c) if so, whether Government has taken steps to ensure that during current crop season farmers get a profitable price of potato; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Department is aware of decrease in the whole sale prices of potatoes in UP, Bihar, Delhi, West Bengal, etc. The Government of India has been implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for various horticultural commodities on the requests of State Governments in the event of fall in

prices of these commodities below economic levels to ensure that the farmers are not forced to make distress sale of their produce. The guidelines of the Scheme provide that the MIS shall be made applicable and sanctioned in a situation when there is an increase of at least 10% in the production over the previous year normal production or if there is reduction in the market prices by at least 10% over the rate of previous normal season. Under the Scheme, a proposal has to be sent by the State Government at least 15 days before the proposed date of implementation. Besides, the State Governments must indicate their willingness to share 50% (25% in case of NE – States) of the total loss incurred in the operation.

Government has asked States to come forward with their proposal under MIS in case the prices of vegetable/horticultural produce in the State are running below economic level.

Rise in incidents of suicide by farmers

139. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of farmers' suicide have suddenly risen during March and April, 2015 in the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether failure of Government to provide adequate funds for development of agriculture and poor and anti-farmer policies by the Central Government are the main reasons for suicide of farmers; and

(c) the details of funds allocated and released for development of agriculture under various schemes of the Central Government during 2014-15 and 2015-16, year-wise, State-wise and scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) As per reports received from State Governments, only Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan have reported 34, 5 and 1 farmers suicides during the month the March and April, 2015.

(b) Agriculture is a State subject under the Constitution. Therefore, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture sector including welfare of farmers. Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. Government of India has taken several steps to revitalize the agriculture sector and improve