

Anti-collision device

*144. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of implementation of Anti-Collision Device to control train accidents;

(b) whether this device has since been tested and implemented successfully, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action plan to improve this device to make it effective in controlling train accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) Anti Collision Device (ACD) developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) was provided as a pilot project on 1736 Route Kilometres on Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR).

Complex operational and technical problems were experienced during these trials which could not be fully resolved by KRCL due to design limitation of ACD. As such, proliferation of ACD is not contemplated.

Indian Railways have planned for alternative Automatic Train Protection (ATP) Systems and in this regard following pilot projects have been taken up for evaluating their technical suitability on Indian Railways.

1. Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) - Pilot launched on South Central Railway in Lingamapalli-Vikarabad-Wadi and Vikarabad-Bidar (250 Route Kms) section of Secunderabad Division
2. Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) - Pilot successfully implemented on:
 - (i) Chennai-Gummidipundi suburban section (50 RKms).
 - (ii) Nizamuddin-Agra main line section (200 RKms).
 - (iii) Kolkata Metro Dum Dum- Kavi Subhash section (25 RKM).

Assistance to drought-affected states

†*145. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry in view of the drought situation in Maharashtra and Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh at present;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the States which have suffered heavy losses due to drought in the last three years and the assistance provided to those States during that period in this regard;

(c) the preparations of Government to deal with emergency situations like drought; and

(d) the details of assistance provided to the drought-affected States and people at present?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) The State Government is primarily responsible for taking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. Government of India supplements efforts of State Government with financial assistance and logistic support. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature and is approved on the basis of Memorandum received from State Government in accordance with established procedure.

During Kharif-2015, the Government of Maharashtra declared drought in 21 districts (covering 15747 villages) and submitted Memorandum to the Government of India for financial assistance under the NDRF. Government of India considered the Memorandum and approved ₹3049.36 crore from NDRF to the Government of Maharashtra. On 25th April 2016, Government of Maharashtra has informed that 7 more districts have been declared as drought affected besides the earlier 21 districts. However, no additional memorandum has been submitted in this regard seeking Financial Assistance from NDRF. Government of Uttar Pradesh also declared drought in 50 districts (covering 72014 villages) including Banda, Chitrakoot, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Lalitpur, Jalaun and Jhansi in the Bundelkhand region during Kharif-2015 and submitted Memorandum to the Government of India seeking financial assistance under the NDRF. Government of India considered the Memorandum and approved ₹ 1304.52 crore from NDRF to the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The States which suffered losses due to drought in the last three years and funds approved to these States from the NDRF are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Due to deficit monsoon during the year 2015-16, 10 States *i.e.* Governments of Karnataka (both for Kharif and Rabi), Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telengana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and

Rajasthan submitted Memoranda seeking financial assistance from NDRF after declaring drought in affected parts of those States. Government of Gujarat has declared semi scarcity in 05 districts of the State.

To deal with the situation of drought, the following measures have been taken:

- During 2015-16, Intervention made in drought affected areas by Implementation of diesel subsidy scheme, enhancement of ceiling on seed subsidy, Implementation of interventions for saving perennial horticulture crops, implementation of additional fodder development programme.
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been launched with the objective of extending the coverage of irrigation in a focused manner. Under PMKSY focus has been given for: Creation of new water sources; Repair, restoration and renovation of defunct water sources; Construction of water harvesting structures, secondary and micro storage, ground water development and enhancing potentials of traditional water bodies at village level. During 2015-16, ₹ 5390.998 crore has been released to the above 11 drought hit States under this scheme.
- Central Government has relaxed the norms under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to provide additional employment of 50 days over and above the 100 days per household in the areas affected by natural calamities including drought during 2015-16. During 2015-16 and 2016-17, ₹ 18715.011 crore and ₹ 9367.196 crore have been released respectively to the drought hit States under MGNREGA.
- The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DW&S) has also released ₹ 2622.53 crore during 2015-16 to the above 11 drought affected States under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and allowed the States to use flexi funds to the extent of 10% of NRDWP for provision of water at the onset of the summer season.
- The Central Government has released ₹ 5507.725 crore as Central share in the SDRF in 2015-16 to the 11 drought affected States and also released the 1st installment of SDRF 2016-17, amounting ₹ 2551.875 crore, in advance to the drought affected States (excluding Gujarat).
- Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 600 districts for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of any extreme climatic events.

Statement*Assistance approved from National Disaster Response
Fund (NDRF) for drought*

Sl. No.	Name of States	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1.	Karnataka	226.57	200.85	1540.20 Rabi-723.23
2.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	1276.25
3.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	2032.68
4.	Maharashtra	-	1962.99	3049.36
5.	Odisha	-	-	815.00
6.	Telangana	-	-	791.21
7.	Uttar Pradesh	-	777.34	1304.52
8.	Andhra Pradesh	254.54	237.51	433.77
9.	Jharkhand	-	-	336.94
10.	Rajasthan	-	-	1193.41
11.	Bihar	931.87	-	-
12.	Haryana	-	168.87	-
TOTAL		1412.98	3347.56	13496.57

Agricultural productivity of India vis-a-vis other countries

*146. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agriculture sector of the country is the second largest in the world in terms of arable land; and

(b) the comparative productivity on per hectare basis of India vis-a-vis top ten agricultural countries in the world?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) As per latest available data maintained by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), India is the largest country in the World in terms of arable land.

(b) The details of comparative productivity of major crops in India vis-a-vis top ten agricultural countries in the World are given in Statement.