

Reviving National Commission on Farmers

1455. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to revive the National Commission on Farmers and to change its nomenclature, aims and objectives with new version; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by Government with long-term and short-term measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal to revive the National Commission on Farmers and to change its nomenclature, aims and objectives with new version.

Drought in the country

1456. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of districts affected by drought in the country, State-wise, in the financial year 2015-16; and
- (b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to rehabilitate the farmers and their families affected by the drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) During 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 National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) after declaring drought in affected parts of those States. Government of Gujarat has also declared semi scarcity in 05 districts of the State during Kharif 2015. However, no memorandum was submitted by Government of Gujarat seeking financial assistance from NDRF.

The details regarding the number of districts affected State-wise by drought during 2015-16 are given in Statement-I [*Refer to the Statement appended to answer to USQ No.1444 part - (b)*] and assistance approved to those drought affected States are given in Statement-II. (*See below*).

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

- Intervention made in drought affected areas during 2015-16 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.
- 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.
- 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 & micro storage, ground water development and enhancing potentials of traditional water bodies at village level.
- Central Government has relaxed the norms under 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.
- In order to protect farmers against crop failure due to natural calamities, pests and diseases, weather conditions, Government of India recently introduced the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for implementation from Kharif 2016.
- The first installment of Central Share of SDRF for the year 2016-17 amounting to ₹ 2551.875 crore has been released in advance to the 10 drought affected States (excluding Gujarat).

Statement-II

Assistance Approved from the NDRF to drought affected States during 2015-16

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Central Assistance approved by GOI under NDRF
1	2	3
1.	Karnataka (both for Kharif and Rabi)	1540.20 723.23
2	Chhattisgarh	1276.25

1	2	3
3.	Madhya Pradesh	2032.68
4.	Maharashtra	3049.36
5.	Odisha	815.00
6.	Telangana	791.21
7.	Uttar Pradesh	1304.52
8.	Andhra Pradesh	433.77
9.	Jharkhand	336.94
10.	Rajasthan	1193.41
TOTAL		13496.57

Menace of bogus seeds

1457. DR. K. V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of media reports that a cotton farmer of Aalur village Palamur in Mahbubnagar district tried to commit suicide on April 16, 2016 for being unable to bear the loss caused by bogus seeds; and

(b) if so, whether steps are being taken to check the menace of bogus seeds which is ruining the farmers' lives in rural economy if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) The State Government of Telangana has reported that, they have taken cognizance of the incident and resolved the issue amicably with the concerned seed companies. Moreover, the State Government has reported that the loss of cotton crop was not due to bogus seeds but on account of climatic conditions.

Further, the State Government has taken adequate steps like creating awareness among the the farmers to purchase quality seeds from authorized and licensed dealers, enhancing capacity of a Seed Inspectors, single window diagnostic facility laboratory for testing of service sample, effective implementation of Seed Law Enforcement and formation of special squad at state level for surprise checks and inspection of seed dealer premises and processing units to curb the sale of spurious seeds in the Slate.