

be identified in consultation with the State-Governments and concerned stakeholder agencies.

- (iv) Under the "Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS)", 15% capital investment subsidy is provided on eligible machines under Technical Textiles.
- (v) In the budget announcement for 2016-17, custom duties on select specialty fibres have been reduced to promote the sector.
- (vi) Standards of different segments of Technical Textiles are being notified from time to time.
- (vii) Ministry of Textiles is organizing an annual premier show on technical textiles. TECHNOTEX with the objective of promotion and building business linkages between the Indian Technical Textile Industry and the participating International Technical textile fraternity.

#### **Assistance to drought affected States**

\*214. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the financial assistance released by Government to the drought affected States recently, particularly for the suffering farmers of the country;
- (b) whether the amount has been given as per the requirement/demand of the respective drought affected States; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) 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.

Due to deficit monsoon during the year 2015-16, Governments of Karnataka (both for Kharif and Rabi), Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telengana,

Uttar Pradesh (both for Kharif and Rabi), Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan submitted Memoranda seeking financial assistance from NDRF after declaring drought in several parts of those States. Govt. of Gujarat had also declared semi scarcity in 05 districts of the State during Kharif 2015. However, no memorandum was submitted by the Govt. of Gujarat seeking financial assistance from NDRF.

The details regarding funds demanded, approved and released during 2015-16 from the NDRF to drought affected States are as under:

(₹ in crore)				
Sl. No.	States	Assistance sought from NDRF by the State	Assistance approved by HLC	Net Assistance released by Department of Expenditure on the basis of recommendation of Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA) after adjustment of balance available in SDRF A/c
1.	Karnataka	3830.84	1540.20	1540.20
	(Rabi)	1417.14	723.23	@
2.	Chhattisgarh	6093.79	1276.25	835.665
3.	Madhya Pradesh	5114.53	2032.68	1875.80
4.	Maharashtra	4002.82	3049.36	2548.73
5.	Odisha	2344.99	815.00	600.52
6.	Telangana	2601.17	791.21	712.62
7.	Uttar Pradesh	2057.79	1304.52	934.32 #
	(Rabi)	1261.03		
8.	Andhra Pradesh	2000.56	433.77	315.95
9.	Jharkhand	2142.78	336.94	0
10.	Rajasthan	10537.02	1193.41	911.64
TOTAL		43404.46	13496.57	10275.475

@ Funds will be released on the basis of recommendation of MHA.

# Memorandum received on 05.05.2016. Funds will be approved from NDRF as per norms after receipt of Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) report.

The Central Govt. had also released following amounts as Central share in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

		(₹ in crore)	
Sl. No.	States	2015-16	2016-17 1st Installment
1.	Karnataka	207.00	108.75
2.	Chhattisgarh	249.725	94.875
3.	Madhya Pradesh	657.75	345.375
4.	Maharashtra	1112.25	583.875
5.	Odisha	560.25	294.375
6.	Telangana	205.50	108.00
7.	Uttar Pradesh	506.25	265.875
8.	Andhra Pradesh	330.00	173.25
9.	Jharkhand	273.00	143.25
10.	Rajasthan	827.25	434.25
11.	Gujarat	528.75	-
TOTAL		5457.725	2551.875

Further funds have been released under the following Schemes to the drought affected States:

- 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, as against the total release of ₹ 7298.697 crore under the scheme to all states, ₹ 5390.998 crore has been released to the above 11 drought hit states.
- 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 and ₹ 505.24 crore during 2016-17 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.

**Internet user base in the country**

\*215. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the State/Union Territory-wise urban/rural internet user base in the country as on 31 January, 2016;
- (b) whether Government is aware that internet penetration and growth in the country is lagging behind Asian peers; and
- (c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to improve internet penetration, particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Sir, Internet subscriber base is maintained telecom service area wise. As per information provided by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Telecom Service Area wise Urban/Rural internet Subscriber base in the country as on 31st January, 2016 is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

However, as per the report of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) on the subject "Internet in India 2015" published in November, 2015, there were 246 Million ever internet users (users claiming to access the internet at least once in their lives) in the urban areas and 129 Million in rural areas as on October 2015.

(b) and (c) The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has launched its report on 30 November 2015 on "Measuring the Information Society Report 2015" which contains percentage of Individuals using the internet in various countries of the world in the year 2010 and 2014. As provided in this report, details about India and its Asian Peers are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)/BharatNet project is planned to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)