

The stock of wheat and rice in the Central Pool as on 1.5.2016 was 581.32 lakh tons (including paddy) as against the food grains stocking norms for the Central Pool earlier called buffer norms of 210.40 lakh tons for April-June quarter which is adequate to meet the requirement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare Schemes (OWS), natural calamity including drought".

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a demand driven wage employment programme. Funds for programme implementation are released to the States as per the agreed to Labour Budget, shelf of projects and demand from the States. In drought affected notified areas, extra 50 days of guaranteed wage employment over and above 100 days guaranteed wage employment in financial year 2015-16 have been allowed. Details of households provided more than 100 days of employment in drought affected States under MGNREGA are given in Statement-II.

**Statement-II**

*Details of Households (HHs) Provided more than 100 days of  
employment in Drought affected location*

Sl. No.	State	No. of HHs provided more than 100 days of employment
1.	Andhra Pradesh	304389
2.	Chhattisgarh	151594
3.	Jharkhand	160847
4.	Karnataka	120948
5.	Madhya Pradesh	180644
6.	Maharashtra	89024
7.	Odisha	160112
8.	Rajasthan	158688
9.	Telangana	309872
10.	Uttar Pradesh	140795

**Institutional credit mechanism for agriculture sector**

2280. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether institutional credit mechanism for agriculture sector is not working the way it should be resulting in increase in the number of farmers' suicides in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government, in consultation with the State Governments to ensure that agriculture credit reaches vulnerable section of farming community in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) Farmers are indebted to both institutional and non-institutional sources of credit. However, borrowing from non-institutional sources is the major reason for debt related farmers' distress which is one of the reported reasons for farmers' suicide in the country. In order to bring more and more farmers within the institutional fold, the Government is providing, through institutional sources (commercial banks cooperative banks and regional rural banks), short term crop loans and medium/long term loans to farmers. Government announces annual agriculture credit target. The agriculture credit target for 2016-17 has been set at ₹ 9.00 lakh crore. The agency-wise targets for short term crop loans and medium/long term loan are also fixed. In addition to the above, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide credit to farmers and the brief details are as follows:-

Short term crop loan of upto ₹ 3.00 lakh is provided to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum. Farmers, who promptly repay their crop loans as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, get the benefit of interest subvention of 3%. Thus, the effective interest rate for the short term crop loan is 4% per annum.

In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against warehouse receipts, the benefit of interest subvention scheme has been extended to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan against negotiable warehouse receipt for keeping their produce in warehouses.

The limit of collateral free farm loan has been increased from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 100,000.

In order to ensure that all eligible farmers are provided with hassle-free and timely credit for their agricultural operations, the Government has introduced the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme, which enables them to purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. and draw cash to satisfy their consumption needs. The KCC Scheme has since been simplified and converted into ATM-enabled debit card with, inter alia, facilities of one-time documentation, built-in cost escalation in the limit, any number of drawls within the limit, etc.

Joint Liability Group (JLG) is an informal group comprising 4 to 10 individuals coming together for the purpose of availing bank loan on individual basis or through group

mechanism against mutual guarantee. The JLG mode of financing serves as collateral substitute for loans to be provided to the target group *i.e.* small, marginal, tenant farmers, oral lessees, share croppers, etc. As on 31.03.2016, the total number of 17.20 lakh JLGs have been financed with ₹ 16,856 crore (cumulative).

**Access of farmers to institutional credit**

2281. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether inadequate access to institutional credit is one of the major factors in farmers' suicides in the country;
- (b) whether Government, in consultation with State Governments, is taking all necessary steps to ensure that agriculture credit reaches small and marginal farmers;
- (c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this regard; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) Government has taken several measures to provide agriculture credit to all farmers including small and marginal, particularly keeping in view the fact that farmers are indebted to both institutional and non-institutional sources of credit. Borrowing from non-institutional sources is the major reason for debt related farmers' distress which is one of the reported reasons for farmers' suicide in the country. In order to bring more and more farmers within the institutional fold, the Government is providing, through institutional sources (commercial banks, cooperative banks and regional rural banks), short term crop loans and medium/ long term loans to farmers. Government announces annual agriculture credit target. The agriculture credit target for 2016-17 has been set at ₹ 9.00 lakh crore. The agency-wise targets for short term crop loans and medium/long term loan are also fixed. In addition to the above, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide credit to farmers and the brief details are as follows:

- Short term crop loan of upto ₹ 3.00 lakh is provided to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum. Farmers, who promptly repay their crop loans as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, get the benefit of interest subvention of 3%. Thus, the effective interest rate for the short term crop loan is 4% per annum.
- In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against warehouse receipts, the benefit of interest