

Sl. No.	State	Calamity	Amount approved
8.	Andhra Pradesh	Drought-K	433.77
9.	Jharkhand	Drought-K	336.94
10.	Rajasthan	Drought-K	1193.41
		Hailstorm	#
11.	Uttarakhand	Drought-R	#
TOTAL			13496.57

K: Kharif

R: Rabi

#: Proposals are at various stages of processing.

Drought in Jharkhand

1382. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Ministry in the light of the drought condition in Jharkhand for over two years;

(b) whether any special employment generation schemes are proposed for the drought affected areas; and

(c) the steps being taken to waive loans of farmers in such drought affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The State Government is primarily responsible for taking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. 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.

No memorandum on drought was received from Government of Jharkhand during 2014-15. A Memorandum for Drought Kharif was received during 2015-16 seeking

financial assistance from NDRF. Government of India has approved ₹ 336.94 crore to Jharkhand in the wake of Drought Kharif 2015-16. Further, the first installment of Central Share of SDRF for the year 2016-17 amounting to ₹ 143.25 crore has been released in advance to the State.

Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for all 24 districts in Jharkhand for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of any extreme climatic event.

(b) Central Government has relaxed the norms under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to provide additional employment of 50 days, over and above the normal 100 days per household, in the drought affected States. The relaxed norms have been implemented in all the 24 districts of Jharkhand during Financial Year 2015-16.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued Standing Guidelines for Relief Measures to be provided by respective lending institutions in areas affected by natural calamities including drought which, *inter alia*, include identification of beneficiaries, extending fresh loans and restructuring of existing loans, relaxed security and margin norms, etc. The Guidelines have been so designed that the moment calamity is declared by the concerned District Authorities, they are automatically set in motion without any intervention, thus saving precious time. The benchmark for restructuring of loans have been revised by RBI from 50% to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management framework.

Implementation of recommendations of the Katoch Committee

1383. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to create a separate Ministry for Pharmaceuticals and Medical devices;

(b) whether Government has implemented any of the recommendations of the Katoch Committee report on the bulk drugs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?