

(b) whether any request has come for Central help from the State Government for taking up rural wage works; and

(c) if not, whether Government will *suo-moto* send a team to study the situation and provide assistance to the farmers in distress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir. During 2016, the State Government declared drought in 268 mandals in 7 districts (including 4 districts of Rayalaseema) in the State.

(b) and (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a Memorandum seeking assistance of ₹ 2281.79 crores (including ₹ 839.79 crores for providing relief employment) from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for drought relief. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the affected areas in the State for assessment of the drought situation and requirement of financial assistance and has submitted its report. The report of IMCT is under consideration.

Assistance for relief employment is not covered under NDRF norms. However, the Department of Rural Development has decided to provide upto 50 days of additional employment in notified drought affected districts, under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), during the financial year 2016-17.

Drought in the country

1784. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farming has been affected by severe drought in most parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is planning to give financial assistance to the States hit by drought, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) During 2016-17, the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry have declared drought in parts of their States.

(b) The State Governments are primarily responsible for taking necessary relief in the wake of natural calamities and are empowered to initiate immediate relief measures to address the situation arising out of drought. Government of India supplements the

efforts of State Governments with financial assistance. 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, keeping in view items and norms in vogue for assistance.

No memorandum has so far been received from the Government of Kerala seeking assistance for drought relief from NDRF. Status of action on memoranda received from other States for Central assistance for drought relief from NDRF is indicated below:—

(₹ in crores)

State	Assistance sought	Assistance approved
Andhra Pradesh	2281.79	#
Karnataka		
(i) Kharif 2016 drought	4702.54	1782.44
(ii) Rabi 2016-17 drought	3310.83	#
Rajasthan	3660.97	#
Tamil Nadu	39565.00	#
UT of Puducherry	132.35	#

#-Under consideration.

Implementation of NCIP

1785. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers covered under the National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP), the details of the last two years;

(b) whether Government has made any assessment of the loss suffered by the farmers;

(c) how much compensation has been paid in various States with regard to NCIP; and