

(b) and (c) In February 2016, a group under Directorate General of Shipping was constituted with representatives from shipping lines and other stakeholder. The group considered the issue of transparency and reasonableness of various charges levied by the shipping lines / carriers for the carriage of export-import goods. Accordingly, Directorate General of Shipping, in September 2016, issued an advisory to the shipping companies for not levying certain charges. Further, in order to improve transparency, shipping lines have started displaying on their websites, the rates of various charges levied by them.

(d) No, in view of (a).

**Financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh under National
Disaster Response Fund**

*297. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that inspite of adequate rains this year, there are nearly 300 mandals in six districts, including Nellore, in Andhra Pradesh, which suffered drought-like conditions;

(b) if so, the details of mandals declared as drought-affected in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise, as informed to the Ministry;

(c) whether the State Government has submitted any proposal for financial assistance under National Disaster Response Fund; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay in sending Central Team and by when the Ministry would provide financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (d) During the year 2019, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that 257 Mandals spread over eight districts viz., Vizianagaram, Vishakhapatnam, Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor, YSR Kadapa, Anantapur and Kurnool have been affected by drought during Rabi 2018-19 season and submitted a Memorandum seeking financial assistance of ₹644.97 crore from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

As per the provisions of the Manual for Drought Management, 2016, the State Government should follow 3 steps, which include, *inter alia*, ground truthing, prior to

declaration of drought. Thereafter, the Memorandum seeking financial assistance under NDRF is to be submitted to this Ministry within a week of declaration while following the provisions of the Manual for Drought Management, 2016. The Inter Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) is constituted and sent to the drought affected areas within a week of receipt of Memorandum from the State Government.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh, however, declared Rabi drought on 13th February 2019, without conducting the exercise of Ground Truthing, which is a prerequisite for judging the severity of drought, before declaration of drought. The Memorandum for financial assistance has been received in this Ministry on 14th May 2019 *i.e.* after a lapse of three months when the fields would have been getting prepared for the next Kharif season, 2019. Therefore, the request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh was not agreed to.

Implementation of PMFBY in Jharkhand

*298. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of success achieved by Government in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in Jharkhand; and

(b) the types of crops for which insurance has been sought thereunder and the amount of insurance money disbursed, till date, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) With a view to provide a simple and affordable crop insurance scheme to ensure comprehensive risk cover for crops against all non-preventable natural risks from pre-sowing to post-harvest, and to provide adequate claim amount and timely settlement of claims, a yield based scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), and weather index based Scheme, namely, "Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS)", have been launched from Kharif 2016 by the Government.

These Schemes are optional for the States and they have to select insurance company, notify the crops and areas and provide past yield data to fix threshold yield and actual yield of current season to settle the claims under the schemes. Jharkhand is implementing only PMFBY since inception of these schemes. Details of coverage