

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2422
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21/03/2025

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF CROP FAILURES IN MAHARASHTRA

2422. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the impact of repeated crop failures in Maharashtra due to unseasonal rains, drought and fragmented land holdings;
- (b) if so, the details of compensation provided to affected farmers over the past five years;
- (c) whether Government plans to introduce special schemes to enhance irrigation infrastructure and ensure climate-resilient farming in Maharashtra; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b) : As per the National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM), the primary responsibility for disaster management, including disbursement of relief assistance on ground level, rests with the State Governments concerned. The State Governments undertake relief measures in the wake of natural calamities, from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) already placed at their disposal, in accordance with Government of India's approved items and norms. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments and provides requisite logistics and financial support. Additional financial assistance is provided from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per laid down procedure, in case of disaster of 'severe nature', which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT). The financial assistance provided under SDRF and NDRF is by way of relief and not for compensation.

The Government of Maharashtra has given compensation of near about Rs.27243.42 Cr. since 2020-21 to 2024-25 (up to 19.03.2025) for crop losses to farmers affected by unseasonal rains, heavy rains & drought.

(c) & (d) : Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) in the Country including Maharashtra from 2015-16. PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation namely Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems. Under PDMC, since the inception of the Scheme from 2015-16, 10,25,758 Ha area have been covered under Micro Irrigation in 34 districts of Maharashtra. Central assistance of Rs. 2606.55 crore have been released to the State of Maharashtra since 2015-16.

Government of Maharashtra is providing subsidy to rainfed area farmers for protective irrigation through farm ponds, wells, drip, sprinkler, pipes and pumps through various centrally sponsored schemes like Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and state sponsored schemes like Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Krishi Swavlamban Yojana & Birsa Munda Krishi kranti Yojana.

Government of India implements yield based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and weather index based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) from Kharif 2016 to provide financial support only to the insured farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities such as drought, flood & adverse weather incidence along with post-harvest losses due to cyclone, cyclonic/unseasonal rains and hailstorm for a specified period of 15 days after

harvesting to stabilize the income of farmers etc. There is no provision to provide compensation to the farmers under this scheme, however, claims are paid only to the farmers who insured their crops and paid premium under any of the notified crop insurance scheme in the notified area/crop by the concerned State Govt. Govt. of Maharashtra is implementing this scheme since its inception and the details of coverage and claims paid under the scheme during past five years is attached as Annexure.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched a flagship network project namely National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA). The project conducts studies on the impact of climate change on agriculture including crops, livestock, horticulture and fisheries and also develops and promotes climate resilient technologies in agriculture for vulnerable areas of the country. The outputs of the project help the regions to cope with extreme weather conditions like droughts, floods, frost, heat waves, etc. During last 10 years (2014-2024), a total of 2593 varieties have been released by ICAR, out of these 2177 varieties have been found tolerant to one or more biotic and/or abiotic stresses. Risk and vulnerability assessment of agriculture to climate change has been carried out at district-level for 651 predominantly agricultural districts as per Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) protocols. Out of 310 districts identified as vulnerable, 109 districts have been categorized as 'very high' and 201 districts as 'highly vulnerable'. District Agriculture Contingency Plans (DACPs) for these 651 districts have also been prepared to address weather aberrations and recommending location specific climate resilient crops and varieties and management practices for use by the State Departments of Agriculture. For enhancing the resilience and adaptive capacity of farmers to climate variability, the Concept of "Climate Resilient Villages" (CRVs) has been initiated under NICRA. Location-specific climate resilient technologies have been demonstrated in 448 CRVs of 151 climatically vulnerable districts covering 28 states/UTs for adoption by farmers. ICAR through its NICRA project, creates awareness about impact of climate change in agriculture among farmers. Capacity building programmes are being conducted to educate the farmers on various aspects of climate change for wider adoption of climate resilient technologies.

Maharashtra has implemented project on climate resilient agriculture (poCRA) in 21 districts since May, 2018. The main objective of this poCRA project is to mitigate farmers economical growth under various climate change situations. Micro Planning and training is initiated in all the selected villages. Various steps to enhance irrigation infrastructure and drought-mitigation initiatives strategies are included. Measures are proposed to reduce impact of repeated crop failures in Maharashtra due to unseasonal rains, drought, and fragmented land holdings.

PMFBY and RWBCIS Combined Business Statistics as on 31.01.2025 for State of Maharashtra

Year	Season	Farmer Applications Insured (lakh)	Paid Claims (Rs. in cr.)
2019-20	Kharif 2019	128.61	5,829.23
	Rabi 2019-20	17.05	929.12
	Total	145.66	6,758.35
2020-21	Kharif 2020	109.83	1,257.85
	Rabi 2020-21	14.23	301.80
	Total	124.06	1,559.65
2021-22	Kharif 2021	85.07	3,793.53
	Rabi 2021-22	13.95	819.93
	Total	99.03	4,613.47
2022-23	Kharif 2022	97.66	4,041.64
	Rabi 2022-23	9.68	990.55
	Total	107.34	5,032.20
2023-24	Kharif 2023	168.63	7,485.86
	Rabi 2023-24	73.19	1,034.33
	Total	241.82	8,520.18
