

(b) No assessment is available about the number of cultivators having been affected by drought particularly in view of the fact that revival of monsoon in August resulted in late sowing of paddy and other crops in many areas.

(c) and (d) In order to compensate the farmers for the losses suffered in unirrigated areas and the additional expenditure incurred in irrigated areas, the Government announced Special Drought Relief Price ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 per quintal over and above the Minimum Support Prices announced for kharif crops of 2002-03.

As regards the alternative crops, States have been requested to take measures aimed at making seeds of alternative crops available to farmers at the appropriate time. The States have also been asked to take steps aimed at facilitating the timely flow of institutional credit to the farmers.

Set back in Kharif season by drought

349. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:
SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was serious set back in agricultural operations during the recent Kharif season due to widespread and prolonged dry spell in the country;

(b) if so, the details regarding extent of crop loss, loss of livestock and human lives and shortfall in Kharif production thereby State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the details of Central assistance sought by various State Governments for relief works; and

(d) the relief measures taken by Government and the details of Central assistance provided, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) At present, estimates have been undertaken for the country as a whole

[22 November, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

for likely shortfall in Kharif production for different crops as per details indicated below:—

(lakh tonnes)

Crop	Kharif 2002	
	Target	- Advance Estimates
Groundnut	69.0	38.9
Castorseed	9.0	4.2
Sesamum	8.0	4.7
Nigerseed	2.0	0.7
Sunflower	5.0	2.8
Soyabean	66.0	47.6

Central Government has released Rs. 1227.29 crore, being the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2002-03, as per details given below:—

(Rs. in crore)

State	Central share of CRF released
Andhra Pradesh	163.77
Chhattisgarh	22.72
Haryana	67.23
Himachal Pradesh	35.96
Jammu and Kashmir	14.43
Karnataka	61.66
Kerala	55.60
Madhya Pradesh	51.78
Maharashtra	129.99
Orissa	90.52
Punjab	10.47
Rajasthan	171.16
Tamil Nadu	84.87
Uttar Pradesh	120.95
Uttaranchal	13.38
West Bengal	41.80