

Deficient rainfall in the States

360. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the impact of deficient rainfall in the country; and

(b) what assistance has been provided to different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Deficiency of rainfall in a large number of States particularly in the month of July has caused wide-spread disruption of agricultural operations during kharif 2002. It is estimated that there is a cumulative loss of 18.72% of food-grains production for the affected States cumulatively.

10.25 lakh MTs of food-grains have been allotted to the affected States, free of cost, for providing relief employment Rs. 1227.29 crores being the Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2002-03 has been released. A total of Rs. 1999.14 crores has also been found eligible for assistance subject to adjustment of balances available in the CRF of the States concerned while releasing assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). Free transport of water and fodder for Rajasthan has been made.

Meeting of ministers of drought affected States with PM

361. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Ministers and other Ministers of different drought hit States called on the Prime Minister in the first week of August, 2002 to seek adequate Central aid to held fight drought and provide aid and support to the affected farmers;

(b) if so, the details of the aid sought by each States; and

(c) the Central Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Chief Ministers made a presentation of preliminary assessment of damage caused by drought in their respective States. Subsequent to that meeting, second instalment of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2002-03, due in November, has been released to the States in advance. So far, 19.25 lakh MTs tonnes of food-grains have been allocated for Generation of Relief Employment. The allocation from National Calamity Contingency Fund is being finalized by the Ministry of Home Affairs being the nodal Ministry, after deducting the balances available in the CRF of States concerned from the amounts which have been found eligible as per prescribed norms, which is Rs. 1999.14 crores.

Prices of wheat, paddy, cotton and sugarcane

362. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of wheat, paddy (rice), cotton and sugarcane has been continuously decreasing for the two decades in several countries of the world;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the details of the respective prices of the said items at the beginning of the Eighty's and at the end of the Ninety's; and

(d) what were the reasons for decrease in prices of these items in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The decline in prices as shown in the following table, is indicative of the decline in cost.