

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2588

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11/08/2023

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO FARMERS TO MITIGATE LOSSES DUE TO SOIL
EROSION**

2588. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that flash floods and torrential rains have caused huge soil erosion leading to low fertility of soil thereby adversely impacting yield of various crops;
- (b) if so, whether the support mechanism of Central and State Government consider this aspect while offering financial support to farmers;
- (c) if not, whether Central Government have any plan to consider this aspect; and
- (d) whether the Central Government plan to consider such aspect in any mitigation plan for future?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): Flash floods and torrential rains can cause soil erosion leading to low fertility of soil and can impact yield of crops. As per the National Policy on Disaster Management, the primary responsibility for disaster management, including disbursement of relief to the affected people on the ground level, rests with the State Government concerned. The State Governments undertake relief measures in the wake of natural disasters including flood from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at their disposal, in accordance with the Government of India's approved items and norms. 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).

Extant norms of SDRF/NDRF, inter alia, provide for assistance to the farmers in the form of Agriculture input subsidy (where crop loss is 33% and above) for damage caused to all types of agriculture/horticulture crop areas due to the notified natural disasters including floods.

Under Central Sector Scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, financial support to farmers is provided at the time of losses due to natural calamities. A yield index-based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and weather index based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) have been introduced in the country from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme is voluntary for all States & UTs and farmers also. PMFBY provides for comprehensive risk insurance against

crop damage from pre-sowing to post-harvest for crops and area notified by the concerned State Government. The scheme not only safeguards against wide spread yield loss due to non-preventable natural risks viz. flood, inundation, landslide, drought, heat waves, hailstorm, cyclone, pests/diseases, natural fire and lightening, storm, typhoon, tempest, hurricane, tornado etc but also against farm level yield loss due to localized risks (hailstorm, landslide, inundation, cloud burst and natural fire) and post harvest losses due to cyclone, cyclonic/unseasonal rain and hailstorm and prevented sowing.
