

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 500
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/02/2025

SPECIAL FINANCIAL PACKAGE FOR FARMERS IN KERALA

500. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:

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

- (a) whether Government of Kerala have submitted any memorandum or other submissions for special financial package to help farmers whose crop has been destroyed due to floods or any other climatic consequences in the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details of demand mentioned in such memorandum or submission;
- (c) the decision the Central Government has taken to the demands made;
- (d) whether Central Government is considering to give any special financial package to Kerala;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (f) : 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). Under the existing guidelines of SDRF and NDRF, there is no provision to provide any special financial package in wake of calamity.

The details of funds allocated and released under SDRF/ NDRF are available at the website of Ministry of Home Affairs i.e. www.ndmindia.mha.gov.in.

During the financial year 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 388.00 crore (Rs. 291.20 crore Central Share + Rs. 96.80 crore State share) has been allocated to the State Government of Kerala in SDRF. The 1st instalment of Rs. 145.60 crore of Central share was released on 31.07.2024. The 2nd instalment of Rs. 145.60 crore of Central Share was also released on 01.10.2024 in advance to the State. In addition, the Accountant General, Kerala reported balance of Rs. 394.99

crore in its SDRF account as on 1st April, 2024. Thus, sufficient fund is available in the SDRF account of the State for the relief operations.

Further, in the wake of landslide and flash flood in Wayanad, the State Government of Kerala submitted a memorandum on 19th August 2024 seeking an additional assistance of Rs. 214.68 crore under NDRF, including Rs. 36 crore for estimated removal of debris, which was yet to be incurred, for providing temporary relief assistance of immediate nature. Based on the report of the IMCT, which visited the affected areas of the State from 8th August to 10th August, 2024, the High-Level Committee (HLC) in its meeting held on 16th November, 2024 approved an amount of Rs.153.47 crore (subject to the adjustment of 50% of balance available in the SDRF account), assistance for the Air bills of Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters for rescue & relief, as per actual, and actual expenditure for the clearance of debris.

As per Manual for Drought Management (3.4), the State Governments need to declare drought through a notification specifying clearly the geographical extent and administrative units affected by drought. A memorandum for assistance under NDRF is to be submitted within a week of declaration of drought if calamity is of severe nature. If SDRF is not able to meet drought relief, States may submit a memo for assistance under NDRF even if the drought is of moderate category. The memo for assistance will mandatorily contain a copy of the State Government notification on drought and details of assessment of drought. Government of Kerala did not issue drought notification and no memorandum for assistance under NDRF as per drought manual was submitted.
