

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2245
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 07/08/2026

CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR EL NINO IN VULNERABLE DISTRICTS

2245. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether Government has reviewed Kharif season preparedness amid El Nino concerns;
- (b) if so, the contingency plan rolled out for vulnerable districts;
- (c) the steps taken for water conservation, tackle input shortages and ensure wider enrolment in crop insurance; and
- (d) the measures taken to provide support to those farmers facing stunted crop growth delayed transplantation and weed competition raising concerns about food inflation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): The Government reviewed the preparedness for the Kharif season, including the likely impact of El Niño conditions, at the National Kharif Conference held on 28–29 May 2026 with Agriculture Ministers and senior officials from States/UTs. The Conference reviewed crop planning, seed and fertilizer availability, water management and region-specific challenges, and advised States to strengthen preparedness through timely availability of critical inputs, efficient water management, close monitoring of weather conditions, dissemination of advisories to farmers, and implementation of contingency measures in coordination with IMD, ICAR and State Governments. Further, the Government has undertaken the following measures:

- (i) District Agriculture Contingency Plans (DACPs) have been updated for 15 States covering 342 Districts which are likely to receive below normal rainfall by the ICAR Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (ICAR-CRIDA) in consultation with the States for implementation. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have also been issued by ICAR for Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for mitigation of El Niño-related risks.

- (ii) Weekly meeting of the Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG) is being held with the representatives of India Meteorological Department (IMD), Central Water Commission (CWC), Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC), Indian Council of Agriculture Research - Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (ICAR - CRIDA), Department of Fertilizers, Department of Food & Public Distribution and the State Governments to review rainfall situation, reservoir storage, groundwater levels, crop sowing, input availability, market situation and pest/ disease incidence for timely intervention. Meeting with State Agriculture Secretaries and Relief Commissioners held under the chairmanship of Secretary (DA&FW) on 27.04.2026 to review availability of inputs like seeds, fodder, drinking & irrigation water, fertilizers and general preparedness. Further, a meeting of the Crisis Management Group had been conducted on 17.06.2026 to assess and strengthen preparedness for the monsoon. In addition, the National Disaster Management Authority has also reviewed the preparedness of below-normal rainfall conditions emanating from the likely impact of the El Nino conditions on 19th June 2026. Review of the situation has been undertaken by the Agriculture Minister, Government of India with the State Agriculture Ministers for Kharif preparedness amid El Nino conditions on 23.06.2026.
- (iii) Adequate availability of seeds has been ensured, against the demand of 172.80 lakh quintals from the States, there was availability of 192.25 lakh quintals of Kharif crop seeds. States have maintained 1% seeds i.e. 1.74 Lakh quintals as National Seed Reserve.
- (iv) Special emphasis has been laid on promoting crop diversification, promotion of short-duration and drought-tolerant crop varieties, balanced use of fertilizers, water conservation practices, micro-irrigation, mulching, inter-cropping and practices of other climate-resilient technologies.
- (v) A nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyaan was organised during 1-30 June, 2026 in which 80,67,300 farmers participated in 1,14,567 programmes which were organised to promote water conservation, introduce efficient irrigation and climate-resilient farming practices. Simultaneously, an intensive Kisan Credit Card (KCC) saturation drive and awareness campaign under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is being implemented in the vulnerable districts.

- (vi) As per the National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM), the State Government is primarily responsible for providing necessary relief measures at the ground level in the wake of notified calamities. The State Governments undertake relief measures in the wake of natural calamities from funds available in the form of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in accordance with the approved guidelines. Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered 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 of losses suffered/ claimed.
- (vii) The financial assistance provided under SDRF and NDRF is by way of relief and not for compensation of losses suffered/ claimed. The details of fund allocation under SDRF State-wise during 2026-27 to 2030-31 (under the XVIth Finance Commission) as provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs is given at **Annexure**.
- (viii) The Central Water Commission and State Governments have been advised to undertake advance planning for optimum utilization of reservoir water and promote efficient irrigation practices. Assistance to farmers is available through ongoing schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana: Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) with a focus on enhancing water-use efficiency at the farm level through installation of Micro-Irrigation systems. Department of Rural Development is utilising Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB G Ram G) funds for rejuvenating water structures – such as farm ponds, check dams, canal desilting, and bori bandhans – to trap every drop of early or residual rainfall. Further, as part of the climate resilient agricultural practices, the Department is also implementing various Schemes viz. the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds Mission, Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses and other existing programmes across the country.

Annexure

Annexure referred in reply to Part (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2245 due for reply on 07.08.2026

State-wise Annual SDRF Allocation						(In Rs. crore)
State	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	Total
Andhra Pradesh	1,182	1,241	1,303	1,368	1,439	6,533
Arunachal Pradesh	99	104	109	114	121	547
Assam	843	885	929	975	1,028	4,660
Bihar	2,628	2,759	2,897	3,042	3,196	14,522
Chhattisgarh	479	503	528	554	582	2,646
Goa	22	23	24	25	25	119
Gujarat	1,633	1,715	1,801	1,891	1,982	9,022
Haryana	564	592	622	653	686	3,117
Himachal Pradesh	431	453	476	500	524	2,384
Jharkhand	542	569	597	627	658	2,993
Karnataka	1,239	1,301	1,366	1,434	1,507	6,847
Kerala	374	393	413	434	450	2,064
Madhya Pradesh	2,258	2,371	2,490	2,615	2,743	12,477
Maharashtra	5,718	6,004	6,304	6,619	6,952	31,597
Manipur	42	44	46	48	50	230
Meghalaya	70	74	78	82	84	388
Mizoram	46	48	50	53	55	252
Nagaland	66	69	72	76	79	362
Odisha	1,718	1,804	1,894	1,989	2,088	9,493
Punjab	478	502	527	553	582	2,642
Rajasthan	1,778	1,867	1,960	2,058	2,162	9,825
Sikkim	73	77	81	85	88	404
Tamil Nadu	1,638	1,720	1,806	1,896	1,991	9,051
Telangana	536	563	591	621	648	2,959
Tripura	57	60	63	66	70	316
Uttar Pradesh	2,957	3,105	3,260	3,423	3,597	16,342
Uttarakhand	797	837	879	923	967	4,403
West Bengal	1,326	1,392	1,462	1,535	1,611	7,326
Total	29,594	31,075	32,628	34,259	35,965	1,63,521

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs
