

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 649**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24/07/2026

**IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND MONSOON VARIABILITY ON FOOD  
SECURITY**

649. SMT RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any assessment of the impact of climate change, El Niño conditions, deficient rainfall and erratic monsoon patterns on India's food security and agricultural production; if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has estimated the likely impact of the current season's weather conditions on the production of major food crops; if so, the crop-wise and State-wise details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has prepared any contingency plan to address possible shortfalls in foodgrains production arising from adverse climatic conditions; if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the list of such vulnerable districts identified, State-wise?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, in coordination with the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR) and other concerned agencies, continuously monitors the impact of climate variability, including climate change, El Niño conditions, deficient rainfall and erratic monsoon on agricultural production. Historical analysis indicates that severe southwest monsoon rainfall deficiency has generally been associated with a decline in Kharif foodgrain production, particularly when the All-India rainfall deficiency exceeds about 10 per cent. Major drought/ El Niño years viz. 1982, 1987, 2002, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2015 witnessed rainfall deficits ranging from 12 to 22 per cent with varying impacts on Kharif production. However, during the recent years, the adverse impact on production has moderated due to increased irrigation coverage, adoption of improved and drought-tolerant crop varieties, better weather forecasting and propagation of advisories, improved input availability and crop management practices, contingency planning by the States and enhanced Government interventions.

(b): The sowing operations for Kharif 2026-27 are still underway, and the first advance estimates for all major Kharif crops in the 2026-27 agricultural year (July–June) have not yet been released.

(c): The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is continuously monitoring the evolving monsoon situation and the possible impact of El Niño conditions on agriculture in close coordination with the India Meteorological Department (IMD), various Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) institutions, ICAR- Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Central Water Commission (CWC), Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC), the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), the Department of Fertilisers (DoF) and State Governments. Further, the Government has undertaken the following measures:

- i. District Agriculture Contingency Plans (DACPs) have been updated for 14 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.
- 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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. Interface meetings by ICAR have been conducted with 14 States, including Maharashtra, for operationalization of District Agriculture Contingency Plans (DACPs). Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have also been issued by ICAR for Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for mitigation of El Niño-related risks.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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. \
- vi. 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.
- vii. 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 and other existing programmes across the country.

(d): Based on the probability of rainfall, irrigation coverage and cropped area, **262 districts** have been identified as vulnerable districts for focused monitoring. The State-wise list is given at **Annexure I**.

**Annexure-I**

**Annexure referred in reply to Part (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 649 due for reply on 24.07.2026**

**State-wise list of 262 vulnerable Districts**

| Sl. No. | State Name        | District Name(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Number of Districts |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1.      | ANDHRA PRADESH    | ANANTAPURAMU, KURNOOL, SRI SATYASAI                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 3                   |
| 2.      | ASSAM             | CHARAIDEO, DARRANG, DHUBRI, GOALPARA, HOJAI, JORHAT, KAMRUP RURAL, KARIMGANJ, NALBARI, SIBSAGAR, SONITPUR, WEST KARBI ANGLONG                                                                                                                 | 12                  |
| 3.      | BIHAR             | BEGUSARAI, BHAGALPUR, JAMUI, KATIHAR, KISHANGANJ, NALANDA, NAWADA, PATNA, SAMASTIPUR, SHEIKHPURA, SHEOHAR, SITAMARHI                                                                                                                          | 12                  |
| 4.      | CHHATTISGARH      | BALRAMPUR, BASTAR, BIJAPUR, DAKSHIN BASTAR DANTEWADA, GAURELA-PENDRA-MARWAHI, KABIRDHAM, KONDAGAON, KORBA, KOREA, NARAINPUR, RAJ NANDGAON, SUKMA, SURAJPUR, SURGUJA, UTTAR BASTAR KANKER                                                      | 15                  |
| 5.      | GUJARAT           | AMRELI, ARAVALLI, BANAS KANTHA, BHAVNAGAR, BOTAD, CHHOTA UDEPUR, DAHOD, DANGS, DEVBHUMI DWARKA, GANDHINAGAR, GIR SOMNATH, JAMNAGAR, JUNAGADH, KACHCHH, MAHISAGAR, MORBI, NARMADA, PANCH MAHALS, PORBANDAR, RAJKOT, SABAR KANTHA, TAPI, VALSAD | 23                  |
| 6.      | HARYANA           | AMBALA, GURUGRAM, KURUKSHETRA, YAMUNANAGAR                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 4                   |
| 7.      | HIMACHAL PRADESH  | BILASPUR, HAMIRPUR, KANGRA, MANDI, SIRMAUR, SOLAN, UNA                                                                                                                                                                                        | 7                   |
| 8.      | JAMMU AND KASHMIR | KUPWARA, RAJAURI, RAMBAN, RIASI, UDHAMPUR                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 5                   |
| 9.      | JHARKHAND         | BOKARO, DEOGHAR, DHANBAD, GARHWA, GIRIDIH, HAZARIBAGH, JAMTARA, KODARMA, LATEHAR, LOHARDAGA, PALAMU, RAMGARH                                                                                                                                  | 12                  |

|     |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |    |
|-----|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 10. | KARNATAKA      | BALLARI, BELAGAVI, BENGALURU RURAL, CHIK BALLAPUR, CHIKKAMAGALURU, CHITRADURGA, DAVANGERE, DHARWAD, GADAG, HASSAN, HAVERI, KOLAR, KOPPAL, RAMANAGARAM, SHIVAMOGGA, TUMAKURU, UDUPI, UTTARA KANNADA, VIJAYAPURA                                                                                                                                                                  | 19 |
| 11. | MADHYA PRADESH | AGAR MALWA, ALIRAJPUR, ANUPPUR, ASHOKNAGAR, BARWANI, BETUL, BHOPAL, BURHANPUR, CHHATARPUR, CHHINDWARA, DAMOH, DEWAS, DHAR, DINDORI, EAST NIMAR, GUNA, JHABUA, KATNI, MANDLA, MANDSAUR, NARSHIMAPURA, NIVARI, PANNA, RAISEN, RAJGARH, RATLAM, REWA, SAGAR, SEHORE, SEONI, SHAHDOL, SHAJAPUR, SHEOPUR, SHIVPURI, SIDHI, SINGRAULI, TIKAMGARH, UJJAIN, UMARIA, VIDISHA, WEST NIMAR | 41 |
| 12. | MAHARASHTRA    | AKOLA, AMARAVATI, AURANGABAD, BULDHANA, CHANDRAPUR, DHULE, GONDIA, JALNA, KOLHAPUR, NANDURBAR, NASHIK, PALGHAR, RATNAGIRI, RAYGAD, SATARA, SINDHUDURG, THANE, USMANABAD, WARDHA, YAVATMAL                                                                                                                                                                                       | 20 |
| 13. | MEGHALAYA      | WEST GARO HILLS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 1  |
| 14. | NAGALAND       | DIMAPUR, KOHIMA, MOKOKCHUNG, MON, PHEK, TUENSANG, WOKHA, ZUNHEBOTO                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 8  |
| 15. | ODISHA         | DEOGARH, KEONJHAR (KENDUJHAR), KORAPUT, MALKANGIRI, MAYURBHANJ, NABARANGAPUR, RAYAGARHA, SUNDARGARH                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 8  |
| 16. | PUNJAB         | KAPURTHALA, PATHANKOT, RUPNAGAR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 3  |
| 17. | RAJASTHAN      | ALWAR, BANSWARA, BARAN, BARMER, BHARATPUR, BIKANER, BUNDI, CHURU, DAUSA, DHAULPUR, DUNGARPUR, JAIPUR, JAISALMER, JALOR, JHALAWAR, JHUNJHUNUN, JODHPUR, KARALI, NAGOUR, PALI, PRATAPGARH, SAWAI MADHOPUR, SIKAR, SIROHI, TONK, UDAIPUR                                                                                                                                           | 26 |
| 18. | TAMIL NADU     | ARIYALUR, CUDDALORE, DHARMAPURI, , KALLAKKURICHI, KANCHIPURAM, KRISHNAGIRI, MADURAI, NAMAKKAL, PERAMBALUR, PUDUKKOTTAI, RANIPPETTAI, SALEM, TIRUCHIRAPALLI, TIRUPPATTUR, TIRUVALLUR,                                                                                                                                                                                            | 19 |

|              |                  |                                                                                                      |            |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
|              |                  | TIRUVANNAMALAI, VELLORE,<br>VILLUPURAM, VIRUDHUNAGAR                                                 |            |
| 19.          | TRIPURA          | NORTH TRIPURA                                                                                        | 1          |
| 20.          | UTTAR<br>PRADESH | BUDAUN, CHITRAKOOT, DEORIA,<br>FARRUKHABAD, JHANSI, KHERI, MAHOBA,<br>SAHARANPUR, SONBHADRA          | 9          |
| 21.          | UTTARAKHAND      | ALMORA, CHAMOLI, HARIDWAR, NAINITAL,<br>PITHORAGARH, TEHRI GARHWAL, UDHAM<br>SINGH NAGAR, UTTARKASHI | 8          |
| 22.          | WEST BENGAL      | ALIPUR DUAR, DAKSHIN DINAJPUR,<br>JALPAIGURI, KOCH BIHAR, MALDAH,<br>PURULIYA                        | 6          |
| <b>Total</b> |                  |                                                                                                      | <b>262</b> |

\*\*\*\*\*