

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 655
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24/07/2026

KHARIF PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION OF EL NIÑO IMPACTS

655. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

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

- (a) the outcome of recent high-level virtual review meetings chaired by Union Minister regarding Kharif season preparedness, alongside the specific multi-tier monitoring frameworks established at national and State levels;
- (b) whether Government has identified specific number of vulnerable districts facing severe rainfall shortages due to current El Niño phenomenon, if so, the State-wise breakdown; and
- (c) the measures being deployed to ensure macro-level food security, water preservation across national reservoirs and whether expedited financial safety nets including Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) payouts or Kisan Credit Card (KCC) provisions are activated for worst-affected agrarian clusters?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (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 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. Interface meetings by ICAR have been conducted with 14 States, including Maharashtra, for updation and 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.

(b): 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**.

Annexure referred in reply to Part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 655 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, ARAVALI, 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,	41

		MANDSAUR, NARSHIMAPURA, NIVARI, PANNA, RAISEN, RAJGARH, RATLAM, REWA, SAGAR, SEHORE, SEONI, SHAHDOL, SHAJAPUR, SHEOPUR, SHIVPURI, SIDHI, SINGRAULI, TIKAMGARH, UJJAIN, UMARIA, VIDISHA, WEST NIMAR	
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, TIRUVANNAMALAI, VELLORE, VILLUPURAM, VIRUDHUNAGAR	19
19.	TRIPURA	NORTH TRIPURA	1
20.	UTTAR PRADESH	BUDAUN, CHITRAKOOT, DEORIA, FARRUKHABAD, JHANSI, KHERI, MAHOB, SAHARANPUR, SONBHADRA	9
21.	UTTARAKHAND	ALMORA, CHAMOLI, HARIDWAR, NAINITAL, PITHORAGARH, TEHRI GARHWAL, UDHAM SINGH NAGAR, UTTARKASHI	8
22.	WEST BENGAL	ALIPUR DUAR, DAKSHIN DINAJPUR, JALPAIGURI, KOCH BIHAR, MALDAH, PURULIYA	6
Total			262
