

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION & FARMERS WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 452**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018

**REFORMS IN AGRARIAN SECTOR**

\*452. SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण  
½â"ãè  
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the disbursement of relief to the farmers is a tiresome process, adding to farmers' distress and payments are chronically/frequently delayed, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether irregularities/corruption in relief packages for farmers is pervasive across the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken/proposed to be taken on such complaints received so far;
- (c) whether in the present system to measure crop loss and calculate relief, the information provided by the village patwari becomes the basis for loss estimation and relief but the patwari reports losses by 'eye estimation', if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and
- (d) whether the Government has suggested to the States that there is a need for urgent reforms in the agrarian sector in the country, if so, the details thereof and action taken/being taken by the States in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण ½â"ãè

(SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.



**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 452 DUE FOR REPLY ON 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018.**

(a) & (b): It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities, including drought. For such purpose, the States have ready availability of funds in their State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), to which contribution is made by the Government of India and State Governments concerned. The Government of India extends financial, logistic and other support. Additional assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), for natural calamities of severe nature, in accordance with the established procedure and on submission of Memorandum for Central assistance by the affected State, also taking into account the extant items and norms for assistance from SDRF and NDRF.

In accordance with the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is concerned with “coordination of relief measures necessitated by drought, hailstorm, pest attack and cold wave/frost”. Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned with work relating to management of other natural calamities as well the items and norms of expenditure for assistance from SDRF and NDRF.

The existing norms for assistance from SDRF/NDRF, inter-alia, includes assistance towards input subsidy for crop loss of 33% and above for all categories of farmers, at the rate of Rs. 6800/- per hectare (ha.) for rainfed areas and restricted to sown areas, Rs. 13,500/- per ha. in assured irrigated areas, subject to minimum assistance not less than Rs.1,000/- and restricted to sown areas and Rs. 18,000/- per ha. for all types of perennial crops, subject to minimum assistance not less than Rs. 2,000/- and restricted to sown areas.

(c) & (d): The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) updated and revised the Manual for Drought Management in 2016 (Manual), taking cognizance of improved, more objective and science based parameters for drought monitoring and assessment. The revised Manual is meant to serve as a guide for the agencies engaged in the prevention, mitigation and management of drought. Adherence to the prescription in the Manual in matters of determination and declaration of drought has been made mandatory by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The Manual became effective from the Kharif 2017. As per the provisions of the Manual, the Ground Truthing (GT) needs to be conducted in each of the 10% of the drought affected villages, selected on a random basis. In each of the selected villages, representative locations may be inspected for data collection.

MHA has advised all the State Governments to ensure that all individual beneficiary-oriented assistance is mandatorily/necessarily disbursed through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) into the account of the beneficiary under SDRF/NDRF with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017. DBT is an attempt to ensure a better and timelier delivery of benefits to the targeted beneficiary.

\*\*\*\*\*