

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 497
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20th NOVEMBER, 2019

DAMAGE TO COFFEE AND SPICES PLANTATIONS

497. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any assessment of damage caused to coffee and spices plantations in the States of Karnataka and Kerala has been made in view of heavy rains and floods in the regions and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government intends to provide some incentives and relief to coffee and spices growers to help them establish their plantation and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted any Task Force to assess the extent of damage due to natural calamity and suggest suitable measures and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time likely to be taken to ensure that coffee and spices growers attain financial stability?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): The Coffee Board's Extension teams carried out preliminary surveys (current year) in the calamity affected areas both in Karnataka and Kerala states to estimate the extent of damage to the coffee plantations due to flooding/landslides and damage to standing coffee crop due to premature fruit drop and fungal diseases. As per the preliminary assessment in Karnataka state, out of the total bearing area of 2, 26,244 hectares, an area of about 97,365 hectares has been reported to be affected by crop loss of more than 33% and an area of 620 hectares is reported to have been affected by landslides/floods. In Kerala an area of about 850 hectares has been reported to be affected with

crop loss of more than 33% and about an area of 16 hectares of plantations are reported to have been affected by landslides/floods.

As per the assessment made by the Directorate of Horticulture, Karnataka, 11502 hectares of black pepper, 3184 hectares of ginger, 573 hectares of turmeric and 25891 hectares of chilli have been severely affected in the State due to heavy rain this year with an estimated crop loss of more than 33%.

In Kerala, the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare made an assessment of crop damages due to heavy rain. Crop-wise details of spices completely damaged are given below:

Crop	Pepper	Nutmeg	Ginger	Cardamom	Clove	Total
Area affected (hectare)	40.23	88.67	13.25	25.08	0.56	167.79
Farmers affected (Nos.)	3074	3542	456	530	56	7658

Source: Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development

Further, the Spices Board had assisted the State Government of Karnataka in the assessment of the damage caused to the cardamom plantations due to heavy rains in the Coorg district. As per the report, about 1800 hectares of cardamom plantations have been affected with a crop loss of more than 33%. The report has been submitted to the State Government.

(b) Under the extant provisions of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), relief in the form of input subsidy for agriculture crops, horticulture crops, annual plantation crops, perennial crops and sericulture is provided when crops loss is 33% and above. For the perennial crops, norms of assistance is Rs.18,000 per hectare.

(c): The Coffee Board, Spices Board and Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development have not constituted any Task Force during the current year to assess the extent of damage due to natural calamity.

(d): Coffee and Spices need a minimum of 3-4 years for economic yield after planting.
