

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3821
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17TH MARCH, 2020

LOCUST ATTACK IN GUJARAT

3821. DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken notice of widespread locust attacks in northern Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to give any compensation for farmers who have been affected by locust attacks;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether farmers in locust infected areas of Gujarat have been educated about the locust attacks; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Desert locust attack was observed in Kutch, Banaskantha and few areas of Patan district of Northern Gujarat during 2019-20.

(b): Locust Warning Organization, Jodhpur and 2 Locust Circle Offices situated in Gujarat conducted awareness campaigns, trainings and mock drills for State Agriculture & Revenue Department officials, farmers and BSF personnel. Control rooms were established in Locust Warning Organization and Locust Circle Offices; advisories were issued to State Governments. Advertisements were issued through newspapers for public awareness about Locust and sharing control room numbers. WhatsApp groups were created in the respective districts for exchange of information and coordination of control efforts with district officials. Additional officials, vehicles and equipments were deployed to strengthen the resources for survey and control operations. The FAO suggested pesticides for the control of locusts in cropped area were circulated to Gujarat State Government. State Government of Gujarat also conducted awareness programmes and established control rooms at district level.

(c) & (d): State Government of Gujarat has done primary assessment of the crop losses due to locust attack and total estimated affected area is 19,313 ha during 2019-20. Relief package has been announced for crop losses of 33% and more for locust affected districts. Assistance of Rs.13,500/- per hectare from State Disaster Response Fund and additional Rs.5000/- per hectare from state budget will be provided for maximum upto 2 hectares. to affected farmers. Total provision for this relief package is Rs.32.76 crores. The payment of compensation to the affected farmers is in progress.

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(e) & (f): Locust Warning Organization, Jodhpur and Locust Circle Offices situated in Gujarat conducted awareness campaigns for State Agriculture & Revenue Department officials, farmers and Border Security Force personnel.

State Government of Gujarat also reported that extension activities are carried out for the awareness of the farmers and total 41,323 numbers of farmers have been trained, 28 number of Press/Media note were published in local newspapers, 15250 numbers of text messages and 19000 numbers of voice messages in local language to farmers were sent, 4240 numbers of information books were distributed to farmers, 33 numbers of DVDs related to locust documentary in local language were distributed and 2 numbers of Doordarshan programme were conducted.
