

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 385**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 02<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER, 2025

**DROUGHT MANUAL 2016**

†385. MRS. RUCHI VIRA:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that under the current provisions of the Drought Manual 2016, the drought period in drought-affected areas is not permitted to be extended beyond the normal monsoon cycle, depriving farmers of institutional support during crucial months like June and July of the following year;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the Drought Manual 2016 to extend the drought period to the end of July of the following year or until the arrival of the next monsoon, whichever is earlier, so that farmers can receive timely compensation, input subsidies, and other relief measures; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is mandated to monitor and coordinate relief measures in the wake of drought, hailstorm, pest attack and cold wave/frost. The Manual for Drought Management was published in the year 2009 by the Government for effective monitoring and management of drought. It clearly delineates the roles and responsibilities of different agencies and guiding coordination against them. The Manual covers institutional structure, key variables for monitoring drought, declaration of drought, drought response, relief and mitigation.

To promote the use of modern technology, the Manual was revised / updated in December, 2016. The revised Drought Manual provides for use of modern technology in monitoring/determination of drought. New scientific indices and parameters was incorporated for a more accurate assessment and monitoring of drought.

As per Chapter 3.4 of the Manual for Drought Management, 2016 (Drought Manual), the State Government is required to declare drought through a notification for Kharif, not later than 31st October and for Rabi, not later than 31st March. The validity of such drought notification is not more than 6 months. In case of delayed sowing/transplanting, States can ask for extension of drought declaration date. This extension cannot be more than 3 weeks in any case. The States are required to provide documentary evidence along with extension request.