

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 236
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21ST JULY, 2026

IMPACT OF EL NINO ON AGRICULTURE

236. SHRI BHASKAR MURLIDHAR BHAGARE:
PROF. VARSHA EKNATH GAIKWAD:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
SMT. SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL DHAIRYASHEEL RAJSINH:
SHRI SANJAY DINA PATIL:
SHRI BALWANT BASWANT WANKHADE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued any advisory or contingency plans in view of possible El Nino conditions and their impact on the monsoon during 2026;
- (b) whether an assessment has been made regarding the likely impact on agriculture in Maharashtra, particularly in drought-prone regions such as Marathwada and Vidarbha;
- (c) the details of measures taken to safeguard farmers' interests in Maharashtra, including provision of drought-resistant seeds, crop diversification, irrigation support and weather-based advisories;
- (d) whether adequate funds have been earmarked for crop insurance, input subsidies and relief measures for farmers in Maharashtra; and
- (e) whether the Government Proposes to strengthen water conservation and climate-resilient agriculture programmes in Maharashtra and, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (e): 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:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Interface meetings by ICAR have been conducted with 14 States, including Maharashtra, for 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.
4. 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.
5. 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. Due to the delay as well as the likelihood on adverse impact of El Nino conditions, sowing is likely to be affected in respect of Tur, Soybean and Cotton and accordingly, the advisories to the farmers have been given to sow Maize, Bajra and Moong, and other short duration crops.
6. 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.
7. As per the National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM), the State Government is primarily responsible for providing necessary relief measures at the ground level in the wake of notified calamities. The State Governments undertake relief measures in the wake of natural calamities from funds available in the form of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in accordance with the approved guidelines. Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per laid down procedure, in case of disaster of 'severe nature', which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT). The financial assistance provided under SDRF and NDRF is by way of relief and not for compensation of losses suffered/ claimed.

The State of Maharashtra has been allocated Rs.5718.00 crore (Central Share Rs.4288.50 crore & State Share Rs.1429.50 crore) under SDRF during 2026-27. The details of funds allocated and released to Maharashtra under SDRF and NDRF during 2021-22 to 2025-26 are as under:

(In Rs. crores)

Financial Year	Allocation under SDRF		Release of Central Share under SDRF	Release under NDRF
	Central Share	State Share		
2021-22	2577.60	859.20	2577.60	1056.39
2022-23	2706.40	902.40	2706.40	--
2023-24	2841.60	947.20	2841.60	--
2024-25	2984.00	994.40	2984.00	138.09*
2025-26	3132.80	1044.00	3132.80	322.21*

* for modernization of fire services

8. Details of funds allocation under SDRF for the State of Maharashtra during 2026-27 to 2030-31 (under 16th Finance Commission) as provided by MHA is as follows:

(In Rs. Crores)

State	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	Total
Maharashtra	5718	6004	6304	6619	6952	31597

9. 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, including Maharashtra.
