

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 379
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21ST JULY, 2026

PREPAREDNESS FOR EL NINO

379. SHRI SRIBHARAT MATHUKUMILLI:

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

(a) the expenditure incurred during the last five years on crop insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), drought relief assistance and investments in drought-risk reduction measures such as irrigation, watershed development, groundwater recharge and climate-resilient agriculture;

(b) whether the Government has assessed the investment in drought preparedness measures to reduce farmers' dependence on crop insurance and drought relief assistance and in view of the projected El Nino conditions and the increasing frequency of erratic monsoons, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared district-specific drought preparedness plans for the 315 monsoon-vulnerable districts, particularly the 111 districts identified as having poor irrigation facilities, including those in Andhra Pradesh and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of investments made in Andhra Pradesh under drought-risk reduction measures during the last five years, along with the physical progress achieved, district-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): Details of expenditure made during last five years under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is given below:

Year	Actual Release/Expenditure (Rs. in crore)
2021-22	13,549.70
2022-23	10,296.03
2023-24	12,948.50
2024-25	14,772.86
2025-26	10,702.61

The total expenditure/ release of central share of funds under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) during 2020-21 to 2024-25 is as under:

Figures in Rs. Cr

Year	Centre's share of SDRF released	Release from NDRF (for all calamities)	Total
2020-21	17,825.63	8,257.09	26,082.72
2021-22	17,747.20	7,342.30	25,089.50
2022-23	16,392.80	1,524.86	17,917.66
2023-24	19,419.60	869.14	20,288.74
2024-25	19,830.40	5,160.77	24,991.17
Total	91,215.63	23,154.16	1,14,369.79

Further, 16th Finance Commission has recommended a total allocation of Rs.1,63,521 crore under SDRF to the States for the period 2026-27 to 2030-31, of which Central Govt. share is Rs.1,24,732.65 crore.

For watershed development, under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), during the period 2021–22 to 2025–26, a total of ₹ 6,260.86 crore has been released. Further, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) in the country from 2015-16 including Andhra Pradesh. During the year 2015-16 to 2021-22, the PDMC was implemented as a component of PMKSY and from 2022-23, it is being implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY). PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation namely Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems. During last five years (2021-22 to 2025-26), 4.31 lakh ha area has been covered under Micro Irrigation through PDMC scheme in Andhra Pradesh with release of Central Assistance of Rs. 1162.93 crore.

In addition, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing Rainfed Area Development (RAD) scheme since 2014-15 which focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing productivity and minimising risks associated with climatic variability, mitigating impacts of drought, flood or other extreme weather events. Since its inception, a total of Rs. 2,251.98 Cr has been released under RAD and 9.53 lakh hectares have been brought under IFS, benefitting around 15.7 lakh farmers.

State Government of Andhra Pradesh has also informed that an amount of Rs. 790.73 crores was spent in the last five years on drought relief assistance towards input subsidy to affected farmers.

(b) & (c): 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.

In this regard, District Agriculture Contingency Plans (DACPs) have been updated for 14 States including Andhra Pradesh, covering 342 districts which are likely to receive below normal rainfall by the ICAR's Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (ICAR-CRIDA).

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.

Adequate availability of seeds has been ensured for the ensuing season. Against the demand of 172.80 lakh quintals from the States, availability of 192.25 lakh quintals of Kharif crop seeds has been assessed. States have maintained 1% seeds i.e. 1.73 lakh quintals as National Seed Reserve.

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.

Further, a nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyaan was organised by Government of India during 1st – 30th 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.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is implementing a project- National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) that studies the challenges posed by climate change on agriculture and conducts district level risk & vulnerability assessment due to climate change.

For enhancing the resilience and adaptive capacity of farmers to climate variability, location-specific climate resilient technologies such as system of rice intensification, aerobic rice, direct seeding of rice, cultivation of climate resilient varieties tolerant to extreme weather conditions such as drought and heat etc. have been demonstrated under the project through KVKs in 151 districts covering 448 Climate Resilient Villages. Capacity building for establishing village level seed banks and community nurseries is undertaken under NICRA to enable availability of seed in the adopted villages.

Drought and flood tolerant climate-resilient varieties of rice, wheat, soybean, mustard, chickpea, sorghum, gram, and foxtail millet were demonstrated in several NICRA villages. Besides, training programmes are conducted under Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) on various issues of agricultural practices. Under NICRA, technical assistance for small and marginal farmers is extended to additional vulnerable districts beyond the 151 currently covered districts, to promote adoption of climate-resilient practices.

During 2014-25 a total of 341 drought tolerant varieties have been released by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) out of which 200 are of Cereals, 25 are of Oilseeds, 43 are of Pulses, 18 are of Fibre, 16 are of Forage crops, 36 are of Sugarcane, 3 are of other crops. During the same period a total of 59 heat stress tolerant varieties have been released out of which 43 are of Cereals, 7 are of Oilseeds, 7 are of Pulses, 2 of Mung bean and 2 are Fibre crops.

State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that in view of the likely El Niño conditions and increasing monsoon variability, the State Government has reviewed drought preparedness measures, including promotion of Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowings (PMDS), climate-resilient cropping systems, soil moisture conservation, and increased green cover to reduce long-term drought vulnerability.

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.

(d): State Government has also informed that District-level drought contingency plans have been prepared for vulnerable districts in Andhra Pradesh, covering crop contingency measures, seed reserves, irrigation management, and crop advisories. The State is also giving special focus to Kurnool, Anantapur, and Sri Sathya Sai districts.

The State of Andhra Pradesh has invested Rs. 67.47 crore towards supply of contingency seed under drought-risk reduction measures during last five years i.e. 2021-22 to 2025-26. Further, for the monsoon-vulnerable districts identified as having poor irrigation facilities in Andhra Pradesh, i.e. Anantapur, Sri Sathya Sai, Kurnool, the state agriculture and water resources departments have prioritized the following localized interventions:

- (a) Pivoting Crop Choices: Enforcing a structural shift away from water-intensive paddy toward low-water millets (Shree Anna), pulses, and oilseeds.
- (b) Groundwater & Tank Management: Accelerated desilting of local minor irrigation tanks and the optimization of agricultural pump usage.
- (c) The "Jaladhara–Jala Harathi" mission flagship water conservation and climate resilience program launched by the Government. The program was initiated as a 100-day time-bound mission (April 6 to July 14, 2026) to systematically address summer drought, protect minor irrigation infrastructures, and boost the rural economy.
- (d) Check Dams and Percolation Tanks: Constructed to slow down rainwater runoff, giving it time to sink into the ground and recharge local bore wells.
- (e) Beyond local farm planning, the state relies on Lift Irrigation Schemes and River Interlinking.
