

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:38
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006
CROPS AFFECTED DUE TO COLD WAVE
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether freezing temperatures and cold wave in many parts of Northern India have severely affected most of the crops;
- (b) if so, the details of loss and the damage to the crops and the farmers, State-wise;
- (c) whether most of the affected farmers are not covered under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the farmers and to ensure adequate supply of agricultural commodities;
- (f) whether any precautionary instructions have been issued to the State Governments to help farmers adopt the latest technology to protect the crops in such weather; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 38 DUE FOR REPLY ON 20TH FEBRUARY, 2006.

(a): The very low minimum temperature which prevailed for a few days in the second week of January 2006 is reported to have caused damage to some crops like mustard, gram, potato etc. at some places in Northern part of the country.

(b): The State of Haryana has reported the damage due to very low minimum temperature and cold wave to the crops of mustard and gram to the extent of 50% and 30%, respectively. Information on crop damage from other States is being collected.

(c)&(d): The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is under implementation in 23 States and 2 UTs including Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Rajasthan. Under the scheme, assistance is provided to insured farmers in case their yield falls short of specified threshold levels. The scheme is available for loanee and non loanee farmers. Farmers availing of crop loan are covered under NAIS.

(e): The Government of India is implementing various crop production schemes through which assistance is provided to farmers on critical inputs including input subsidy, training of farmers and dissemination of improved crop production technologies.

(f)&(g): Advisories are issued regularly to farmers through the agencies of Government of India to take necessary precautions and field operations. Keeping in view the prevailing temperature of early January, the farmers were advised through electronic media to protect their crop from frost by resorting to immediate irrigation of fields as well as by creating smoke screen by burning agricultural residual wastes.