

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:828

ANSWERED ON:31.07.2006

LOSS DUE TO HAILSTORM AND HEAVY RAINS .

Kripalani Shri Srichand;Narhire Smt. Kalpana Ramesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) The details of the loss of crops due to hailstorm and heavy rain State-wise;
- (b) The total quantity of crop destroyed in the States particularly Rajasthan and Maharashtra, State- wise; and
- (c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to compensate the farmers? ANSWER

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Madhya Pradesh reported damage to cropped area in 2.63 lakh hectares due to untimely rains and hailstorm in March, 2006 in 44 districts and Rajasthan reported crop loss in 36531.20 hectares of rabi crop due to hailstorm and heavy rains which occurred during February-March, 2006 in 17 districts of the State. Information relating to Maharashtra is being collected. In the recent past, no other State has reported any loss due to hailstorm.

(c): In response to the Memorandum submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for Central assistance in this regard, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State for assessment of the situation. This was considered by the High Level Committee (HLC) and the HLC approved the following:

(i) Release of Rs. 87.56 crores from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to the adjustment of 75% of the balance in Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) account of the State for the instant calamity; and

(ii) Release of 0.45 lakh MTs of foodgrains (0.25 lakh MTs of wheat + 0.20 lakh MTs of rice) under the special component of Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) for relief employment in the hailstorm affected districts. In case of non-availability of foodgrains (wheat) under SGRY, the HLC approved release of Rs. 10 crore in cash in lieu of the said quantity of foodgrains (wheat).

The assistance approved for Madhya Pradesh included assistance towards input subsidy for crop loss of 50% above.

No other State including Rajasthan and Maharashtra submitted any Memorandum seeking assistance from NCCF, etc. in the wake of hailstorm. However, as per the prevailing norms of expenditure for assistance from relief funds for damage to crops due to natural calamities, assistance towards input subsidy is admissible to small & marginal farmers for crop loss of 50% and above @ Rs. 1000/- per hectare for rainfed areas, Rs. 2500/- per hectare for areas with assured irrigation and Rs. 4000/- per hectare for perennial crops. Assistance for input subsidy is also admissible at the above rates to farmers other than small & marginal farmers in case of severe calamity occurring for second consecutive year (or subsequent year) and subject to the condition that the subsidy will be payable at appropriate rate per hectare upto 2 hectares only, irrespective of the size of holding.

Compensation for damage to crops is admissible under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme for crop losses suffered on account of natural calamities