

>

Title: Regarding drought like situation in Maharashtra.

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR): Madam, some parts of Maharashtra State faced drought-like conditions due to delayed rains and depleting water levels. There are 22 districts of Maharashtra State which face drought-like conditions. So far, a total rainfall of just about 28 mm has been recorded in all the five districts in Nashik Division which includes Nashik, Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon and Ahmednagar, while the average, expected rainfall is 155 mm.

Besides drought, there was unseasonal rainfall and hailstorm in Dhule, Nandurbar and Nashik Districts of Maharashtra hampering the crops in Maharashtra. During the last three consecutive years, there was drought in Maharashtra. The farmers are committing suicide in the State. The Government has waived loan to the farmers last year. In my constituency, Nandurbar, especially the crops of banana, papaya, grapes, cotton and all other crops are the worst-affected. The productivity in Nandurbar, Navapur, Akkalkuwa taluks are expected to be about less than 50 per cent as against the usual production and Sakri, Shirpur, Dhadgaon, Shahada and Taloda are also worst affected. The Government should have to waive off the loan of farmers this year. Further, as Nandurbar is a tribal constituency, the worker: work ratio under MNGREGS must be relaxed. More and more farmers should be given employment under this scheme in my constituency.

The water level is going low day by day, up to 2 mm as the Report of the Survey of GSDA suggested. Firm steps should be taken for use of water of Narmada River in my constituency as a large number of people are migrating from the rural areas due to drought. The Government provides a help of Rs.15,000 to irrigated crops, Rs.25,000 to horticultural crops and Rs.4500 to rainfed crops per hectare. I urge the Government to increase this amount in case of irrigated crops up to Rs.25,000 to Rs.30,000 in respect of horticultural crops up to Rs.40,000 to Rs.50,000, in respect of rain-fed crops up to Rs.10,000. A special package should be given to horticultural crops, loan rephrasing should be done and interest should be waived. Special efforts should be made for ground water recharging for tank-fed villages. Government should take immediate and firm steps in this matter..