

Answer to the Rajya Sabha Question Dy. No. S3108/S2390 raised by Shri D.P. Tripathi & Shri B.K. Hariprasad regarding "Problem of drought in the country"

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a) The names of the number of districts in various states, including Maharashtra and Karnataka which are facing drought almost every year;

Gupta *et. al.* (2011) has identified the following districts which are prone to drought across the country, the paper published in Current Science is annexed (Annexure-I).

State	District
Maharashtra	Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Beed, Nanded, Nashik, Osmanabad, Pune, Parbhani, Sangli, Satara and Solapur
Karnataka	Bangalore, Belgaum, Bellary, Bijapur, Chitradurga, Chickmangalur, Dharwad, Gulbarga, Hassan, Kolar, Mandya, Mysore, Raichur and Tumkur
Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Kurnool and Prakasam
Bihar	Munger, Nawadah, Palamau, Rphatas, Bhojpur, Aurangabad and Gaya
Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Amrely, Banaskanta, Bhavanagar, Bharuch, Jamnagar, Kheda, Kutch, Meshana, Panchmahal, Rajkot and Surendranagar
Haryana	Bhiwani, Gurgao, Mahendragarh and Rohtak
Jammu and Kashmir	Doda and Udhampur
Madhya Pradesh	Betul, Datia, Dewas, Dhar, Jhabuva, Khandak, Khargaon, Shahdol, Shahjapur, Sidhi and Ujjain
Odisha	Phulbani, Kalakhandi, Bolangir and Kendrapada
Rajasthan	Ajmeer, Banaswada, Barmer, Churu, Dungarpur, Jaisalmeer, Jalore, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali and Udaipur
Telangana	Rangareddy, Mahbubnagar and Nalgonda
Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Salem, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad, Banda, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Jhansi, Mirzapur and Varanasi
West Bengal	Bankura, Midnapur and Purulia

b) Whether government has received any suggestions from these states to deal with the problem of drought?

N.A.

c) if so, the details thereof ? State-wise along with the response of Government thereof;

N.A.

d) The details of assistance provided by Government to these drought affected states including the subsidy on diesel to farmers on the basis of land-holding records; and

N.A.

e) The other steps taken by Government to mitigate the problem of drought in the country?

National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) was launched during February 2011 by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) with the funding from Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Under NICRA, CRIDA and other coordinating centres are conducting research to manage natural resource effectively to mitigate problem of drought in the country and also to develop drought tolerant varieties for various vulnerable regions of the country. Promising rainfed technologies to mitigate drought are being popularised in selected 49 districts. These districts are prone to drought and are under different states representing different Zonal Project Directorates (ZPD's) of ICAR (Annexure-II). In these districts following measures are being taken like:

- Extending near real time agro-advisories to farming communities for coping with natural calamities including drought
- Reclaiming cultivable wastelands by community tanks / ponds as a means of augmenting village level water resources
- Individual farm ponds for improving livelihoods of small farmers
- Low cost rainwater harvesting structures for storing surplus runoff in streams
- Enhancing of water use efficiency through improved irrigation techniques
- Integrated farming system modules