

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2522

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH MARCH, 2013/PHALGUNA 29, 1934 (SAKA)

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS AFFECTED BY CYCLONE
'NILAM'

2522. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:
SMT. T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has released any financial assistance to farmers through Government of Andhra Pradesh for the crops lost through the havoc of cyclone called 'Nilam' which occurred recently by treating it as national disaster; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the parameters adopted so far to release such assistance?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (b): The State Governments concerned are primarily responsible for undertaking necessary rescue & relief measures in the wake of natural disasters. Distribution of relief on ground is also the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by extending financial assistance and logistic support, where necessary. For this purpose, a State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted with an allocated amount for each State. The State Governments are expected to take relief measures of immediate nature to the victims of notified natural calamities including cyclone, out of the funds available in the SDRF in accordance with the approved items & norms of assistance. Like-wise, allocation in the SDRF of the State is made for the entire State and it is for the State Government concerned to allocate/ release the financial assistance from SDRF to various districts for further distribution to affected farmers through their established administrative machineries, in the wake of a natural calamity in accordance with the ground situation. Additional expenditure, if any, incurred over and above or on other than approved items/ norms, is

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required to be met by the States from their own resources and not from SDRF/ NDRF.

With regard to treating cyclone 'Nilam' as national disaster, it is informed that there is no provision to declare a natural disaster as a 'national disaster' in the guidelines. However, Government of India adjudges a calamity of 'severe nature' on case-to-case basis taking into account inter-alia the intensity and magnitude of the calamity, level of relief assistance, capacity of the State Government to tackle the problem, the alternatives and flexibility available within the plan to provide succor and relief etc. The priority is immediate relief and response assistance in the context of a natural calamity. As such there is no prescribed procedure. However, for calamity of a severe nature, additional assistance is also considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), after following the established procedure. Keeping in view of the severity of Cyclonic storm 'Nilam', it has been adjudged a calamity of a 'severe nature' by the Inter-Ministerial Central Team.

The concerned State Governments is required to undertake necessary relief operations in the cyclone 'Nilam' affected areas out of the funds readily available in the corpus of the SDRF. Under the guidelines for expenditure from SDRF/ NDRF, the assistance to the affected farmers is admissible for Agriculture Input Subsidy, according to the magnitude of the event.. In addition to regular schemes of crops damage, the farmers are also entitled for compensation under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, which is implemented by the State Government. Information on assistance provided to farmers from the SDRF/ NDRF is not maintained by the Ministry of Home Affairs, since execution of relief activities on the ground is responsibility of State concerned.

Upon receipt of memorandum, from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for additional financial assistance, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team constituted by Government of India, visited the affected areas of the State, from 19-21th December 2012 for making an on the spot assessment of damages and requirement of funds for relief and rehabilitation of immediate/ temporary nature. The report of the Central Team and recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) were considered by the High Level Committee (HLC), in its meeting held on 13.03.2013, and approved the following assistance:-

- Rs. 417.12 crore for management of cyclone 'Nilam' and flood of 2012 from NDRF subject to the adjustment of 75% of balance available in the SDRF account for the instant calamity.

The State of Andhra Pradesh has been allocated an amount of Rs 560.99 crore in the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) for the year 2012-13 consisting of Rs 420.74 crore as Centre's contribution and Rs 140.25 crore as State contribution. Both the installments of Central Share of SDRF amounting to Rs. 210.37 crore each for the year 2012-13, have been released, to the State on 28th June 2012 and 26th December 2012 respectively.
