

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1933
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH MARCH, 2025

MANUAL FOR DROUGHT MANAGEMENT, 2016

†1933. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the main provisions of the Manual for Drought Management, 2016 along with the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to make necessary amendments in the Manual for Drought Management, 2016 regarding extending the period of declaration of drought till the month of July of the next year or till the onset of monsoon, whichever is earlier according to the impact of drought; and
- (c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor along with the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is mandated to monitor and coordinate relief measures in the wake of drought, hailstorm, pest attack and cold wave/frost. The Manual for Drought Management was published in the year 2009 by the Government for effective monitoring and management of drought. It clearly delineates the roles and responsibilities of different agencies and guiding coordination against them. The Manual covers institutional structure, key variables for monitoring drought, declaration of drought, drought response, relief and mitigation.

To promote the use of modern technology, the Manual was revised / updated in December, 2016. The revised Drought Manual provides for use of modern technology in monitoring/determination of drought. New scientific indices and parameters was incorporated for a more accurate assessment and monitoring of drought. The Manual also suggests a system for drought management and mitigation through various programmes to be implemented by the State Governments. Initially, the process for declaration of drought during Kharif season was prescribed in the Manual. In July 2018, the process of declaration of drought during Rabi season was added for the benefit of the States.

(b) & (c): No sir. However as per the Manual for Drought Management, 2016 (Drought Manual), the State Government is required to declare drought through a notification for Kharif, not later than 31st October and for Rabi, not later than 31st March. The validity of such drought notification is not more than 6 months. In case of delayed sowing/transplanting, States can ask for extension of drought declaration date. This extension cannot be more than 3 weeks in any case. The States are required to provide documentary evidence along with extension request.