

Gokul Chandra Pati, IAS
Chief Secretary, Odisha



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

Phone : (+91 674) 2536700/4300

Fax : (+91 674) 2536660

Email : csori@nic.in

RDM-RLF-DROT-0020-2015
No. 4408 /CS

Bhubaneswar, dated the 30th Oct., 2015

To

All Revenue Divisional Commissioners/
All Collectors.

Sub: Measures to mitigate drought like situation in some blocks/districts.

Madam/Sir,

With a view to address drought like situation in some areas of the state, the State Government have decided to take the following immediate measures to be taken by all concerned:-

1. The Collectors will immediately form teams comprising of field level officials of Revenue, Agriculture, Cooperation and Water Resources Departments which will conduct sensitization and counselling camps at Gram Panchayat and village level in areas experiencing moisture stress. This will start immediately. All Tahasildars, BDOs and Senior field level officers of Agriculture, Cooperation and Water Resources Departments will visit ten such sensitisation camps daily and report to the Collector.
2. Such teams will sensitize the affected farmers regarding the package of assistance announced by the Government and all possible relief measures including available schemes to benefit the farmers. Further, these teams will keep close watch over local money lenders and immediately report incidents of debt related harassment of farmers to the police. The expenditure in connection with conduct of sensitization camps will be met by the Agriculture Department.
3. The teams will take steps for establishment of 'Farmers Clubs' in each affected village which will act as a medium between the affected farmers and the administration.
4. Steps should be taken to strengthen "Samadhaan Sibirs" in drought affected areas. These may be held as per a specified schedule to be chalked out by Collectors for senior officers of districts. The efforts should aim to reach out to all the farmers in affected villages.
5. For effective monitoring of this exercise, a 24-hour Control Room-Cum-Help Desk must start functioning immediately at Block and Tahasil levels besides District Emergency Operation Centre in the District Emergency Section of the Collectorate. Suitable number of personnel may be deployed in shifts in such Control Room-Cum-Help Desks. Such personnel may be properly oriented both on the subject matter and etiquette. Availability of at least one telephone in proper working condition must be ensured. The Collector will immediately notify the telephone numbers of all Control Room-Cum-Help Desks in the district for information of public.

Contd.....P/2

6. The State Government had announced the Drought Package on 15.10.2015 which has been circulated among all the Collectors. In addition, the Government have taken the following decisions, which may be implemented forthwith.
- a. Recovery of all crop loans extended by Cooperative Societies in the affected Blocks as per eye estimation survey report is deferred with immediate effect. Re-phasing of the recovery schedule of such crop loans shall be made as per the announcement made in the Drought Package declared by the Government on 15.10.2015.
 - b. The Commercial Banks have been requested to take similar steps in respect of crop loans of farmers of the affected areas. In addition, the banks will take immediate action for disbursement of loans for Rabi Crops. Suitable cropping programme should be implemented taking into account the availability of residual moisture, irrigation water and other inputs. District level Bankers' meeting shall be convened by the Collectors within two days to discuss regarding rescheduling of crop loans and other emergency loan related issues.
 - c. Keeping in view the present distress conditions, collection of Water Cess in the drought affected districts for this year is waived.
 - d. Steps will be taken to create large water tanks through MGNREGA in every affected Gram Panchayat, wherever feasible. Sites for such tanks shall be identified within 2 days and work should start in 7 days following due procedure.
 - e. An additional 30% of the wage shall be paid to the labourers engaged MGNREGS in drought affected blocks as Drought Allowance. Expenditure on this shall be met by the State Government. Panchayati Raj Department will issue necessary instructions in this regard.
 - f. Development of private lands of the affected farmers can be taken up as a component under MGNREGS as an additional relief measure.
 - g. The Collectors and SPs shall strictly monitor the money lending activities in rain deficit areas and taken immediate action as per the Odisha Money Lenders Act, 1939. Joint teams of revenue and police should be formed for this. Action taken report in this regard must reach the Government in Home Department on a daily basis.
 - h. When any suicide case is reported in areas experiencing moisture stress, the joint enquiry report of Collector and SP must reach the Government in Home Department within 24 hrs with copy to Agriculture Department.
 - i. Disbursement of agriculture input subsidy must start latest by 10th November, 2015 as per the detailed instructions issued in this regard by the Special Relief Commissioner on 18.08.2015, 26.09.2015 and on 29.10.2015.

I would request you to take immediate steps to implement the above decisions of the Government and send a compliance report on each action point by 31.10.2015.

Yours faithfully,


Chief Secretary