

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 699**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018

**Drought in Wayanad, Kerala**

699. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government is aware that Wayanad, an area of Western ghats in Kerala, is facing severe drought conditions for the past few years;
- (b) Whether the Ministry has developed any plan to protect the flora, wild animals and also human beings dependant on it;
- (c) If so, the details thereof; and
- (d) Whether Government has prepared a long term action plan to avoid irreparable damage to such areas and living beings considering this trend in wide variation in availability of rains?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) Yes Sir. Government is aware that Wayanad is facing rain shortage.
- (b) to (d) The State as well as Central Government are providing funds for the implementation of various schemes for the conservation, protection of flora, fauna and human beings in forests. Drinking water facilities for the wild animals are being developed by constructing check dams, brush wood check dams and ponds. For providing drinking water facilities to the tribal communities living in the forest areas, permission is granted for laying pipelines under Forest Right Act as per Jalanidhi and other connected schemes. Strict directions have been given to the field staff to ensure that the collection of non-timber forest products is as per scientific methods to protect flora.

The State Governments have ready availability of funds under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for taking immediate measures in the wake of natural calamities, including drought. Additional assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), for

natural calamities of severe nature, in accordance with an established procedure and on submission of Memorandum for Central assistance by the affected State.

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has provided financial assistance to the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary under the CSS-‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’ for the protection and conservation of wildlife and its habitats. Financial assistance has also been provided for Voluntary Relocation of families of Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary as per the request submitted by the State Government of Kerala.

Details of fund provided to the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’ during the last three years & current year are as below:

<b>(Rs. in lakhs)</b>				
<b>Name of Sanctuary</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary	48.258	62.28	60.167	49.66

Details of fund provided for the voluntary Relocation of the families is as below:

<b>State Name</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount released (Rs. in lakh)</b>
Kerala	2015-16	270.00
	2016-17	1108.80

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