

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5348
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2019**

Shortage of Water in Kerala

5348. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken steps to address the issue of shortage of potable drinking water by means of establishing a permanent facility in Kuttanad, Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala seeking financial assistance or package for the same; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the same along with the present status of the proposal and the project?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)**

(a)& (b) Water is a state subject. Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti supplements the effort of States for improving the coverage of drinking water in rural areas including Kuttanad in Kerala. Further, Government has taken following steps to mitigate the shortage of drinking water:

- i. An advisory has been issued by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation on 20th May 2019 to States on water conservation and to meet the drinking water requirements of rural areas during scarcity.
- ii. Further, Cabinet Secretariat, vide its letter dated 29th May 2019 addressed to selective States, recommended action plans for dealing with drought like situation.
- iii. The Hon'ble PM has written letters to all Sarpanches in the country motivating them to take up water conservation activities like de-silting and cleaning of water bodies, rain water harvesting etc with people participation.

Further, as announced in the Union Budget Speech 2019-20, it has been envisaged to ensure piped water supply to all rural households by 2024 under the Jal Jeevan Mission including Kuttanad in Kerala.

- (c) & (d) This department had received a project proposal “Second Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project- additional funding” amounting to Rs. 2365 crore on 30.11.2017 for funding from World Bank through Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA). The proposal has been technically examined in this Department and same had been recommended to DEA for further action on 25.01.2018.