

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1661
ANSWERED ON 28.11.2019

DROUGHT AFFECTED DISTRICTS

†1661. SHRI MAHABALI SINGH

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of districts in the country have been declared drought affected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise; and
- (c) the details of the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) & (b) During Kharif 2019 (so far), only two States, namely, Manipur and Rajasthan, have declared drought and submitted Memorandums seeking financial assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Manipur has declared drought in 14 districts and Rajasthan in 4 districts.

(c) During 2015-16, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched by Union Government with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices etc. During 2016-17, under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) – Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), 99 on-going Major/Medium Irrigation (MMI) Projects having ultimate irrigation potential of 76.03 lakh ha. and balance estimated cost of Rs. 77,595 cr (Central Assistance (CA) component of Rs. 31342.50 cr) have been prioritized in consultation with States, for completion in phases up to December, 2019 along with their Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) works.

Out of the 99 prioritized projects, 59 projects are benefitting/partially benefitting the drought prone areas. Ultimate potential of these 59 projects is 47.03 lakh ha out of which 26.56 lakh ha was created upto March, 2016. Further, a potential of 11.34 lakh ha has been created during 2016-19 through these 59 projects.

In addition to above, special package for completion of 8 MMI & 83 Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects benefiting drought prone areas of Maharashtra having estimated balance cost of Rs. 13651.61 crore as on 01.04.2018 has been approved during 2018-19. These projects are planned to be completed in phases by 2022-23. The targeted additional potential through these projects is 3.77 Lakh Ha. During 2018-19 and 2019-20 (so far) Rs. 500 crore and Rs. 295 crore have been released respectively as CA under Special Package.

Under National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), attempts made to develop drought tolerant rice, wheat and pulses. Findings of NICRA have led to release of a few drought-tolerant crop varieties. ICAR- Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), along with other ICAR Institutes, State Agriculture Universities and Kisan Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), has prepared District Agriculture Contingency Plans (DACPs) for 650 districts, recommending location specific climate resilient crops and varieties and management practices for use by the state departments of agriculture and farmers. The district-based agriculture contingency plans are also being updated in consortium mode with participation of State Agriculture/ Horticulture and Veterinary Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and ICAR Institutes.

Central Government also supports construction of water harvesting and conservation works through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and other such schemes. Other steps taken by the Central Government to combat drought like situation, control water depletion and promote rain water harvesting/conservation are at URL:

http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf
