

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2419
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3RD DECEMBER, 2019

MITIGATING CRISES OF DROUGHT AND SAFE DRINKING WATER

2419. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare along with the State Government of Maharashtra to mitigate the crises of drought and safe drinking water in the State during the year 2019-20;
- (b) whether the Union Government is seeking any financial assistance from any international developmental agencies to provide safe drinking water to the people;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any special package provided by the Union Government to the State of Maharashtra in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): In the eventuality of natural calamities, the State Governments are empowered to initiate necessary relief measures from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), which is readily available with them. Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), on the receipt of Memorandum from State Governments and in accordance with extant norms and procedures. SDRF/NDRF norms, inter-alia, provide assistance for emergency supply of drinking water in rural and urban areas and also repairs /restoration of drinking water supply damaged infrastructure. During 2019-20 (so far), the State Government of Maharashtra has not submitted any Memorandum seeking financial assistance in the wake of drought.

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 Agriculture Departments of the States and farmers.

Under National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), attempts have been made to develop drought tolerant rice, wheat and pulses. Findings of NICRA have led to release of a few drought-tolerant crop varieties.

Government of India has launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), a water conservation campaign, which is being implemented in two phases in 256 water-stressed districts of the country. The Phase-I was implemented from 1st July, 2019 to 30th September, 2019 across the country and Phase-II is being implemented from 1st October, 2019 to 30th November, 2019 in the Southern States, which receive retreating monsoon. During the campaign, officers, groundwater experts and scientists from the Government of India have worked with State and District officials in these districts to promote water conservation and water resource management by focusing on accelerated implementation of five target interventions, viz. water conservation & rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies/ tanks, reuse and recharge of bore wells, watershed development and intensive afforestation. With this campaign, huge awareness has been generated and various stakeholders have started taking steps for water conservation.

Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, releases funds to States/ UTs under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) approved criteria. During 2019-20, an amount of Rs.690.55 Crore was allocated to the State of Maharashtra and out of this, an amount of Rs.345.28 Crore has been released as first instalment.

State Government of Maharashtra has reported that during scarcity period of October 2018 to September 2019, the following prominent measures were taken to tackle the drinking water scarcity:

- (i) 6200 new borewells and 532 temporary water supply schemes were completed;
- (ii) 2418 Pipe Water Supply Schemes and 2845 borewells repair work were completed;
- (iii) Well Deepening and Desilting work of 1294 wells was carried; and
- (iv) 7014 tankers were deployed and 10687 borewell/dugwells were requisitioned for providing safe drinking water in the State.

The State has also informed that during 2019-20, about Rs.725.95 Crore was spent on drinking water scarcity mitigation measures.

(b) & (c): Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, with the financial Assistance (in the form of Loan) from World Bank, is implementing Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (RWSSP) in four Low Income States viz; Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh (RWSSP-LIS) for providing safe drinking water to rural areas in selected districts of these four States .

(d) & (e): Special package for completion of 8 Major/Medium Irrigation (MMI) and 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 Hectare. During 2018-19 and 2019-20 (so far), Rs. 500 Crore and Rs. 295 Crore have been released respectively as Central Assistance under Special Package.
