

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 239
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.02.2016

Drinking Water Crisis

†239. **SHRI NANA PATOLE:**

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether drought affected districts/areas of several States including Maharashtra are facing drinking water crisis, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for solution of drinking water crisis in these districts / areas along with the funds allocated on priority basis to these affected areas during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the details of the concrete measures taken by the Government to find a permanent solution of drinking water crisis in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) to (c) The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) releases its first predictions for Southwest Monsoon in the month of April every year. The Ministry takes immediate steps to tackle the drought like situation and scarcity of drinking water arising out of deficient monsoon if there is a forecast regarding the same by IMD as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) prepared by the Ministry for responding to Natural Disasters in Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation. The States are requested to prepare contingency plan as per the SOP and execute the same. In case of drought, Government of India deposes an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT), and based on its report, the High level Committee (HLC) headed by Union Home Minister, decides the financial assistance to be provided under Calamities sub-component of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). During 2015-16, IMCT has been sent to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh in order to assess the situation of drought in these States, however, the recommendation of HLC in respect of these States are yet to be received. Under NRDWP, 2% Natural Calamity component of the total allocation is earmarked and set apart for meeting drinking water needs of the rural areas in the wake of natural disasters which inter alia include droughts. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation releases funds to drought

affected States only on the recommendation of HLC. During the year 2015-16, as no recommendation of HLC has been received for drought, no funds have been released to any State. The details of funds provided under 2% Calamity components of NRDWP for drought affected States during the last three years are as under:-

					(Rs in Crores)
S. No.	State	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1	HARYANA			5.05	No release till 22.02.2016 for drought affected areas
2	KARNATAKA	38.20		9.00	
3	MAHARASHTRA	15.00			
4	RAJASTHAN	11.00			
5	TAMIL NADU		31.00		
6	UTTAR PRADESH			44.00	
Total		64.20	31.00	58.05	

Moreover, there is a provision of Flexi-fund equivalent to 10% of releases of programme fund under NRDWP which can be used by States to mitigate the situation of natural calamity including drought.

The focus of the Ministry now is to move towards rural water supply schemes based on safe and perennial surface water sources to ensure long term sustainability of source and drinking water security in the event of crisis including drought. This Ministry has been asking all the State Governments to make optimum use of available water while implementing rural drinking water supply schemes. To increase the availability of drinking water, the Ministry has suggested all States including Maharashtra to adopt water conservation measures like roof top rainwater harvesting, erecting sustainability structures for water conservation etc. For creating such sustainability structures 10% of NRDWP Programme allocation is provided on 60:40 basis by the Ministry to the States except North Eastern (NE) and 03 Hilly States namely Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand. These States are provided sustainability funds on 90:10 Centre-State ratio. From sustainability funds, States can prepare sustainability structures like Pits and Trenches, Check Dams, Percolation Tanks, Point Source Recharging Structures, Dug Wells/Injection Skimming Wells, Ooranies / Village Ponds / Traditional Water Bodies, Roof Top Rainwater Harvesting Structures and other structures in order to meet drought like situations. Moreover Hydro Geomorphological Maps (HGM) are being used for accurately locating new drinking water sources in the field.