

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 693
ANSWERED ON 28.04.2016

SUPPLY OF WATER TO DROUGHT HIT AREAS

693. SHRI KIRTI AZAD

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking any steps to ensure that the drought hit areas in the country are supplied adequate water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there are enough resources available to ensure adequate water supply to these areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the future plan of the Government to ensure adequate water supply in these areas?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

(PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT)

(a) to (d) The State Government is primarily responsible for taking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. Government of India supplements the efforts of State Governments with financial assistance and logistic support. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Governments in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature and is approved on the basis of Memorandum received from State Governments in accordance with established procedure.

An amount of Rs.10275.48 crores have been released for the year 2015-16 to State Governments. Further, the Central Government has released Rs.2551.875 crores as first instalment of Central share in SDRF to the 10 drought affected States for 2016-17.

(e) Several measures for meeting water crisis through augmenting, conserving and using water resources more efficiently are undertaken by the State Governments. This Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments in this regard through various schemes and programmes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, Scheme for Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water-bodies etc.

Central Ground Water Board, under this Ministry has prepared a conceptual document entitled “Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India” during the year 2013 envisaging construction of 1.11 crore Rainwater Harvesting and Artificial Recharge structures in the country to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Meters) of water. The augmented ground water resources will enhance the availability of water for drinking, domestic, industrial and irrigation purposes. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.

Water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water constitute a special focus area for MGNREGA works and about 2/3rd of the expenditure is directly related to construction of such structures.

Central Government has launched the National Water Mission with the objective of conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management.

The National Water Policy, 2012 has been formulated which has made several recommendations for conservation, development and improved management of water resources in the country.

Jal Kranti Abhiyan (2015-16 to 2017-18) has been launched in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement.

Recycle and reuse of water, after treatment to specified standards as well as rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge are being incentivized through various initiatives, programmes/ schemes of the Government.

Improved water use efficiency in different sectors such as in irrigation (through micro-irrigation, e.g., drip, sprinkler etc.), industry and households is being encouraged through various initiatives, programmes/ schemes of the Government.

This Ministry has also formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) envisaging inter-basin transfer of water. The implementation of NPP would give benefits of approximately 35 million hectare of additional irrigation potential and 34000 mega watts (MW) hydro generation apart from the incidental benefits of flood moderation, navigation, drinking and industrial water supply, fisheries, salinity and pollution control etc.