

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1761

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003

WATER CRISIS

NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;S. MURUGESAN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Expect Water emergency in 2003" appearing in the Times of India dated December 11, 2002;
- (b) if so, the names of States expected to be effected by drought in 2003;
- (c) the arrangements being made in the States which were worst affected by drought in 2002 and are still suffering from recurrent drought; and
- (d) the pro-active action plan the Government propose to take to tide over water crisis?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 2002-03 , 18 States, viz Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal had reported drought situation. 17 States (except West Bengal) had submitted Memorandum for assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for drought. The drought position in States during theyear 2003, however, shall depend on the meteorological events during the year especially during monsoon.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned for undertaking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. However, assistance is provided under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), to which the Central and State Governments concerned contribute in the ratio of 3:1. In addition, assistance is considered from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for natural calamities of severe nature in accordance with a set procedure. Further, foodgrains are allocated under the special component of Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) scheme for relief employment. The State Governments have however, been advised to make judicious use of water available in the reservoirs giving priority to drinking water supply. States have also been advised to take over the exploratory wells drilled by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) for enhancing their water supply.

(d) To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources and accelerate the creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. For meeting future requirements of the water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking of Himalayan and peninsular rivers for transfer of water from surplus areas to water deficit areas.