

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:507

ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011

SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER

Singh Shri Dushyant;Virendra Kumar Shri

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

- (a) the names of the States currently experiencing drought like situation and facing problem in supplying drinking water to the rural areas;
- (b) the Schemes undertaken by the Government to solve the drinking water problem in these States;
- (c) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government to accord special category status to the State to solve the drinking water problem in the State;
- (d) if so, the final decision of the Union Government in this regard; and
- (e) the funds released to these States to solve their drinking water problem during the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 507 to be replied on 08.09.2011

(a): As per information available, no State Government has reported to the Ministry in 2011-12 about problem in supplying drinking water to rural areas arising from drought like situation, till date.

(b): The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation administers through the States the centrally sponsored scheme, National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing financial and technical assistance to the States to supplement their efforts for provision of drinking water. The State Governments are vested with powers to plan, approve, execute and implement drinking water supply schemes under NRDWP.

(c) & (d): The Government of Rajasthan had requested the Government of India in 2009 to accord special category status to Rajasthan by providing special annual assistance of Rs.3,045 crore for the next eight years in addition to existing allocation being made to the State. This was considered and the State Government was informed that the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation had not accorded special category status to any State and there was no provision under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to accord special category status to any state.

A similar request was made to the Planning Commission by the State Government. The Planning Commission has informed that special category status for allocation of central assistance to State Plans has generally been accorded in the past to States on the basis of a set of criteria that inter alia include hilly and difficult terrain, low population density and/ or sizeable share of tribal population, strategic location along borders with neighboring countries, economic and infrastructural backwardness and non- viable nature of state finances. The Planning Commission has therefore communicated its view that for any State seeking special category status on account of State specific problems, it would be more appropriate to provide financial assistance/ additional central assistance etc. as has been the practice so far, on a case to case basis rather than change the definition of `Special Category State`.

(e): The details of allocation and releases made under NRDWP to States during 2011-12 so far are given in the Annexure.