

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2204

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2014

SHORTAGE OF DRINKING WATER

Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal;Nimmala Shri Kristappa;Patil Shri A.T. (Nana)

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the extent of scarcity of drinking water due to deficient monsoon this year and if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to solve the drinking water shortage which may arise due to scanty rainfall State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the State Governments have requested the Union Government for any special package to handle the situation and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether any budgetary allocation is made under various schemes/programmes with respect to drinking water to overcome drinking water shortage;
- (d) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise, year-wise and programme/ scheme-wise; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to provide adequate safe drinking water to the people and to cover more habitations in the country for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

- (a) The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) in its first stage Long Range Forecast for the 2014 Southwest Monsoon issued on 24.4.2014 predicted the probability of below normal (33%) to deficient (23%) monsoon in the country. The Ministry immediately wrote to all the States in the country to take immediate steps to tackle the drought like situation and scarcity of drinking water arising out of deficient monsoon as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for responding to Natural Disasters in Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation. The States were requested to prepare contingency plan at the State, District, Block, and Panchayat/village level as per the SOP. To monitor the progress of drinking water mitigation activities, a format has been designed and the States have been asked to enter the details of the activities undertaken by them in it on fortnightly basis.
- (b) and (c) Some States have requested for funds along with their Contingency Plan. But there is no provision for release of funds before declaration of drought under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). However, under NRDWP, there is provision of 2 % of the fund for providing assistance to States/UTs to mitigate drinking water problem in rural areas in wake of natural calamities including drought. This fund is released to the States on the basis of the on spot/field assessment of Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) and approval of High Level Committee (HLC) on National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Under NRDWP, 15 percent of the allocation towards programme fund to the States can be used for Operations and Maintenance (O&M). This can be utilized by the States during drought for maintenance to the defunct water supply systems. Thus funds for dealing with contingencies like drought are available under the Programme with instructions to States to utilize the same.
- (d) The details of the funds released to the States under calamity component of NRDWP during the last three years and current is given at Annexure.
- (e) The Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States under the NRDWP, to supplement their efforts to provide adequate safe drinking water to the rural population. In 2014-15, Rs. 11000 crore has been allocated under the NRDWP. In order to achieve the targets under NRDWP, the State Governments are vested with powers to plan, approve and implement drinking water supply schemes. The State Governments in consultation with the Ministry prepare Annual Action Plans (AAP) each year, to implement rural water supply schemes to cover partially covered and quality affected habitations and for other activities. During the Annual Action Plan meeting, the States have been asked to take up schemes prioritizing the coverage of partially covered habitations with a focus towards providing piped water supply to rural households. Achieving this aim and objective is a continuous process.