

**Title:** Need to announce special relief package for Rajasthan to tackle the drought situation in the State, particularly in Barmer Parliamentary constituency.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): I represent the entire Barmer and Jaisalmer districts and one segment of Jodhpur district. I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to the drought situation in Rajasthan. Most of the districts of Rajasthan State have been reeling under severe drought and famine for the last two to three years. It is submitted that last year 26 districts out of 32 districts of Rajasthan were affected and this year 31 districts consisting of 30,583 villages covering 410 lakh people are affected as against 26,000 villages last year. These figures are based on the report submitted by the Government of Rajasthan to the Government of India. There is acute shortage of drinking water, fodder for animals and employment opportunity this year.

In Barmer constituency, there are about 3,000 villages out of which 2,900 villages are adversely affected by drought and famine. A large number of people along with their animals have started migrating to other States. The left over people are panicked and are in distress. In case immediate relief measures are not taken, there is likelihood of famine deaths and suicide there, especially because of poverty, drying of water sources and non-availability of fodder.

I, therefore, request the Government to take following actions on top priority basis:-

- a. Immediate relief package to drought/famine affected people to mitigate their sufferings.
- b. Fodder and grain from other States be rushed for human beings and livestock.
- c. A Parliamentary Committee to be sent for on-the-spot study of drought and famine situation.