

Title: Need to provide special package to State Government of Rajasthan for providing relief to the people affected by drought.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): This is with regard to severe drought for the third consecutive year in Rajasthan which has increased the problems of the people many-fold. I have been bringing this issue before the Parliament for the last two years that due to drought conditions most of the drinking water supply schemes have become defunct. As there is no perennial source of water in Rajasthan, even the existing water sources, whatever available, are drying or have been dried up. This has made the life of the people miserable, especially when there are no employment opportunities in the area. The livestock is dying for want of fodder.

With the passage of time, the conditions have worsened. As the Government is aware, out of the 32 districts of Rajasthan, 26 districts having 24,406 villages are reeling under severe drought which have adversely affected more than 2.5 crore people and 3.5 crore animals. To meet this gigantic challenge, the Rajasthan Government requested the Central Government to provide Rs.1,260 crore, but the Union Government has released only Rs.102.93 crore which is just not sufficient to meet the requirement of ten per cent of the affected population.

With the onset of summer, the condition of the people and animals will worsen further. Since the time of 11th Lok Sabha, I have been urging the Government for grant of special package to drought prone areas of Rajasthan but no tangible action has been taken to alleviate the sufferings of the poor people of Rajasthan.

Therefore, I would request the Government to release sufficient funds to Rajasthan, rush fodder for animals and drinking water on top priority to save precious lives.