

Title: Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Gujarat to overcome serious situation of scarcity of drinking water in the State.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN): The Chief Minister of Gujarat came to Delhi a few days ago and had requested hon. Prime Minister to grant Rs.100 crore to the State of Gujarat to meet the very serious situation of scarcity of drinking water in the districts of Patan, Banaskantha, Kutch, Rajkot, Surendra Nagar etc. On account of no rains in certain parts of Gujarat, the rural population and also the urban population in the cities like Rajkot and Surendra Nagar are getting water at the interval of one week or more. The Government of Gujarat is facing very serious difficulties due to no assistance from the Government to expedite the recovery of Rs.1,300 crore from the States of M.P, Maharashtra and Rajasthan on account of Narmada Tribunal Award. I am sorry to mention that for one reason or other, the work of Sardar Sarovar Project is not in progress. The State of Gujarat is losing approximately Rs.10 crore per day towards interest expenditure on Narmada. It is not only a problem of drinking water, but also saving lives of human beings and cattle. I, therefore, request the hon. Prime Minister to look into the request of the State Government and release funds without further loss of time.