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Title: Need to provide drinking water in Morarji Desai Residential School in Bellary Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka.

SHRI B. SRIRAMULU (BELLARY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I represent Bellary Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka. I would like to bring to the attention of the Government that there is no drinking water facility in Morarji Desai Residential School which is situated in Yerragudi village in Bellary Taluk which falls under my Lok Sabha Constituency. This village borders Alur Taluk of Andhra Pradesh. In this village, Morarji Desai Residential School had 535 students when this school started three years ago. There is no drinking water facility to this school though the water source of Tungabhadra Canal is within three kilometres from the school. A local youth, who has a mobile water tanker, provides water to the school free of cost as part of his social service. This is the position till today since the school started functioning three years ago. If any student manages to get a tumbler of water, others snatch it from him. This is the plight of the students there.

Sir, there is research evident that links the availability of permanent classrooms, textbooks, desks, libraries, and running water which is essential to take up education in rural areas. A child's attention cannot be focused on learning every day in open air when there are hundreds of distractions in the fields and villages that surround classrooms. Learning is not possible in deplorable conditions as classrooms need major repairing. The classrooms are so dark and airless that students can hardly see the black board. So, adequate drinking water, shade, proper lighting, ventilation and proper spaces in classrooms are all aspects of classroom design which can contribute to a better and conducive learning environment.

There is also a need to focus on the use of other elements of school infrastructure such as latrines and separate latrines for girls are very important. That is why I requested the State Government to direct the District Administration to prepare the line estimate so that the scheme could be executed and children are provided with drinking water in their school. There are various schemes to provide drinking water under Border Area Development Fund, Scarcity Relief Fund for which the Deputy Commissioner is the Chairperson of Rajiv Gandhi Technology Mission, MPLAD Fund and MLA Grants.

So, I demand that the Government should take necessary steps to provide drinking water facility to students in Morarji Desai Residential School situated in my Bellary constituency.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri B. Sriramulu.