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Title: Regarding drinking water scarcity in Telangana.

SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY (MALKAJGIRI): There is an alarming depletion of groundwater table from 6.83 ft to 24.57 ft in most parts of the Telangana. The depletion of water table has been found alarmingly high in Karimnagar, Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy, Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad and Medak districts. This has strained the drinking water sources.

The deficit in annual average rainfall till January-end in these districts, which was ranging from 27 per cent to 50 per cent, has taken a heavy toll on the groundwater table as well as on water bodies such as tanks and reservoirs.

Singur, Manjira, Nizamsagar and Sriramsagar reservoirs are going dry and has affected the water table in their catchment and service areas badly.

Official sources admitted that drinking water scarcity is likely to stare at more than half of nearly 23,000 habitations in the State before summer season itself due to strain on the groundwater sources of protected water supply schemes and groundwater table in case of hand pumps.

The Government has already commenced supply of drinking water through tankers to some habitations in some districts. But it is not reaching all households.

Meanwhile, the State Government has recently released Rs. 55 crore from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to Collectors of the affected districts to mitigate drinking water problem in 231 drought-hit Mandals.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to prepare a contingency action plan and release substantial funds to Telangana Government to tackle the drinking water problem during this summer.

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