

[26 April, 2000]

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the 30 districts in the State which come under the coastal belt are mostly flood prone. During floods, prompt action is taken by the State Government to repair and restore the drinking water supply systems and repeatedly disinfect the sources inundated by submergence. As a permanent measure, the State Government is considering a proposal for installation of 39 rural piped water supply schemes, with an estimated outlay of Rs. 107 crore, in the flood prone areas of Orissa with World Bank assistance.

Scarcity hit districts in some States

3494. SHRI LAJPATRAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat which have been declared as scarcity hit districts by Government this year;

(b) what amount of Central assistance has been sought by the State Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat as relief for such districts;

(c) what are Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the proposal submitted by the State Governments in this context?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh have intimated that seven districts, namely, Badwani, Dhar, Jhabua, Hoshangabad, Khargone, Raipur and Raisen have been affected by drought. Similarly, the Government of Gujarat have intimated that 17 districts, namely, Jamnagar, Panchmahal, Rajkot, Surendernagar, Porbandar, Banaskantha, Patan, Kutch, Bhavnagar, Bharuch, Junagadh, Amreli, Sabarkantha, Dahod, Mehsana, Kheda and Ahmedabad have been affected by drought and that four districts, namely, Banaskantha, Jamnagar, Kutch and Patan have been severely affected. The Government of Maharashtra have not sent any report on districts affected by drought.

(b) The State Government of Gujarat have sought an amount of Rs. 722.16 crore as Central assistance for drought relief. In case of Maharashtra, no memorandum has been received from the State Government seeking Central assistance.

(c) and (d) The details of Central assistance provided to Gujarat and

Maharashtra are as below:

(Rs. in Crore)			
State	Belief provided	1999-2000	2000-2001
Gujarat	Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)	121.05	87.42
	National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR)	54.58	—
Maharashtra	Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)	44.36	—

Poisonous water in rural areas of Gujarat

3495. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister, of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in quite a substantial number of rural areas in Gujarat the very sources of drinking water has become poisonous and villages have no option but to drink water with poisonous contents such as arsenic, lead, fluoride, etc.;

(b) if so, the district-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government have established chain of laboratories for testing the quality of water in such areas of the State;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what measures Government have taken to provide safe drinking water in affected areas of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per information furnished by the Government of Gujarat, there were in all 2826 villages/habitations having excess Fluoride in drinking water, out of which 1651 villages/habitations have been covered with provision of potable water and 1175 villages/habitations remain affected by excess Fluoride contamination. There are no villages/habitations having excess Arsenic and Lead in the State.

(b) District-wise details of villages/habitations having excess fluoride are given in statement (*See* below).

(c) To test the quality of water in the affected areas, the Government of India have sanctioned 14 stationary Water Quality Testing Laboratories and 1 Mobile Water Quality Testing Laboratory in the State. The State Government have also established 9 Water Quality Testing Laboratories in the State to check the water quality.