

Acute scarcity of potable water in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

†1587. **SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:** Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the problem of rural potable water has taken a serious turn in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan as a result of drought during the recent months;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided to the State's endeavors to ensure the availability of potable water;

(c) whether State Governments have furnished any calamity management scheme under emergent circumstances to the Government,

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) (a) Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have reported drought situation in many areas during the recent months which has resulted in acute scarcity of drinking water.

(b) to (e) Provision of drinking water supply is a State subject and schemes for providing drinking water supply facilities are implemented by the State Governments from their own resources. The Government of India only supplements efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). For mitigation of drought, Government of India have been administering the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) through the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Home Affairs respectively. With effect from the year 2002-03, the Department of Drinking Water Supply is also keeping 5% of the funds allocated under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) in a year to meet contingencies arising out of natural calamities and emergent situation including drought

It has been reported by the Government of Madhya Pradesh that they have taken adequate relief measures and have prepared a Contingency Plan costing Rs. 51.60 crore for taking short term and long term relief measures for mitigating drinking water scarcity. An officer of the Department

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

of Drinking Water Supply has made an on the spot assessment of situation and has recommended financial assistance of Rs. 7.76 crore. The same would be considered after Government of Madhya Pradesh notifies the drought-affected district through official notification.

Government of Rajasthan has also reported that they have taken adequate relief measures including transportation of water by rail/road in villages and towns to mitigate drinking water scarcity problem in the drought affected areas. The State Government has already declared three districts of Rajsamand, Udaipur and Bhilwada covering 649 villages as scarcity affected. A contingent Plan costing Rs. 450 crore for various relief measures on short and long term basis has been prepared by the Government of Rajasthan. For making an on the spot assessment of the situation, a team of officers has visited the State and recommended release of financial assistance of Rs. 12.00 crore from 5% component of ARWSP earmarked to meet natural calamities.

Steps to provide pure drinking water

1588. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under various rural drinking water schemes implemented under Central Scheme of Government in rural areas mostly unfiltered and untreated ground water is supplied to the rural masses for domestic use;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to supply contamination free water to the rural masses in the country particularly in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) According to the Executive Guidelines for Implementation of Water Quality Testing Laboratories issued by Government of India, all the public drinking water supply sources in villages are required to be tested for 14 routine parameters at least twice a year, preferably before and after rains.