

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.

Besides, all the spot sources namely handpumps, tubewells, sanitary wells are subjected to strong doses of chlorination.

Wherever the problem of chemical contamination of drinking water sources is detected, remedial measures are taken. Between 94-98, 100 sub-mission projects were sanctioned for States suffering from various quality problems like excess iron, excess salinity, excess fluoride and excess arsenic costing Rs. 122755.62 lakh with Government of India share of Rs. 92091.29 lakh including 7 sub-mission projects for Karnataka. From 1.04.98 onwards powers for sanctioning and implementing the sub-mission projects in water quality affected areas have been delegated to the State Governments.

It has also been decided to start a National Rural Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme for institutionalization of community based water quality monitoring and surveillance system with technical support from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Utilisation of MPLADS funds in schemes for providing pure drinking water

†1589. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide pure drinking water under 'Swajaldhara Scheme';

(b) if so, whether there is any scheme to provide pure drinking water to villages by contribution of money from MPs Local Area Development Fund in it;

(c) if so, whether any guidelines have been issued to States in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.