

**Survey to assess water crisis in Karnataka**

\*268. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a possibility of a severe drinking water problem in the ensuing summer months in Karnataka;

(b) whether Government, in consultation with the State Government, is conducting any comprehensive survey to assess the prospect of severe drinking water crisis in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) As reported by the state government of Karnataka there is possibility of severe drinking water problem in the ensuing summer months in Karnataka.

(b) to (d) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. The mandate of the Ministry is to provide technical & financial assistance to States in their efforts to provide drinking water to the rural population in a continuous basis. Though this Ministry does not carry any comprehensive survey in consultation with the State Governments to assess the prospect of severe drinking water crisis in the State, a mechanism for assisting the States in the event of a drinking water crisis exists in the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) guidelines. 2% of the NRDWP allocation is set aside for any natural calamity including drought. On the declaration of drought, Inter Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) visits the affected States and gives its recommendations regarding the quantum of assistance to be given. Funds are thereafter released to State with the approval of a High level Committee constituted in the Ministry of Home Affairs. In addition to this, the states can use Flexi funds to the extent of 25% of the total funds released to them under NRDWP for taking up works for mitigating the drinking water scarcity in an area as per the instructions issued by the Ministry in this regard.

**Child mortality due to environmental pollution**

\*269. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of WHO report, stating that environmental pollution is a major contributor for child mortality and if so, the details thereof; and