

Title: Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Maharashtra to solve acute shortage of drinking water in the State-Laid.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : Sir, the whole Vidarbha region of Maharashtra is passing through a severe drought like situation. It has resulted in acute shortage of water for drinking and cultivation purpose. Consequently, acute shortage of water and cattle fodder has not only endangered the health of the cattle but has also created exasperating situation in the entire region of Vidarbha.

The considerable fall in the water level in all medium and small irrigation projects has miserably affected the yield of the main crops of the region like rice, soyabean, sunflower, mung etc. 60% of the Rabi Crops have been destroyed and only 13% of the Kharif sowing have been undertaken. Farm labourers are on the verge of losing their jobs. A number of works need to be started under Employment Guarantee Scheme to provide employment to them.

It is high time that Central Government take immediate steps to extend all help to the State Government to tide over the present situation.