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Title: Need to extend assistance for the entire period of drought and famine in Rajasthan.

SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY (NAGAUR): I would like to raise a very important issue regarding Rajasthan. It is well known that Rajasthan is the State where famine & Droughts are common phenomena. The state as a whole or part of it remained under drought condition for 58 years out of 67. This is the largest state & 2/3 area of this state is under arid & semi arid zone. The average annual rain fall is scanty & very low i.e. less than 25 CM in this zone.

The State Government has started the relief works to provide employment to the affected population, assistance for fodder for animals specially cattle population. Government gives financial assistance to the senior citizens and physically handicapped. Governments also make arrangement for potable water through Tankers. State Government does it under the Disaster Management Act of 2005 of Govt. of India. State has SDRF (State Disaster Response Fund) in which 75% aids come from Central Government. There provision of providing assistance to all the above categories till the famine prevailed was under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 .

Government of India issued the New Circular on 28 Nov 2013 to provide help to all categories only for 90 days. Famine & drought remain for 8 to 10 month & the famine work, water arrangement, & fodder arrangement are only for three months. Therefore, the Chief Minister has requested the Hon'ble Home Minister to amend this circular. I would also like to request to amend the circular. The assistance should be for the entire period of famine & drought.