

WEEKLY DROUGHT REPORT: No.5
(As on 28-05-2001)

Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
(Department of Agriculture & Cooperation)
www.ndmindia.nic.in

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF DROUGHT- 2001

1. Rainfall

- All the Meteorological sub-divisions in Chhattisgarh (27.5%), Gujarat (-38%), Madhya Pradesh (-31%), Orissa (-18%) and Rajasthan (-28%) received deficient and inadequate rainfall during South-west monsoon 2000, leading to drought like situation. Scarcity conditions also exist in Himachal Pradesh (-6%), Maharashtra (-1%) and one district of Uttaranchal (-18%).
- The rainfall during post monsoon period (1.10.2000 to 31.12.2000) has also been scanty in these States (-27%) to (-100%).
- The cumulative area weighted winter rainfall is scanty, being 65% less than long period average. This year winter rainfall is lowest in last five years.
- As per the IMD report the weather during the week ending May 16, 2001 is as under:-
- The southwest monsoon advanced into South Andaman Sea and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal on 15 May 2001, as per normal date. The monsoon further advanced into some parts of North Andaman Sea and more parts of southeast Bay of Bengal on 17 May.
- During the week normal to excess rain occurred in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Orissa and Vidarbha.
- Heat wave conditions prevailed in some parts of northwest India, interior Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in the first half of the week.
- During the period from 1st March to 16 May 2001 the cumulative rainfall was normal to excess in 27 out of 35 meteorological subdivisions. Also, in the drought hit areas the rainfall position during the pre-monsoon season is normal to excess.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEK ENDING ON MAY 23, 2001

Southwest monsoon is likely to advance into Comorin and Maldives areas, most parts of southwest Bay of Bengal, remaining parts of Andaman Sea and parts of east central Bay of Bengal.

Thundershower activity over northeastern States and south Peninsula is likely to increase.

Day temperatures over northern plains and central India are likely to increase and become nearly normal.

1(a) STATE PROFILES

Chhattisgarh 10252 villages in 12 out of 16 districts affected by drought like situation. 94.08 lakh human population and 32.40-lakh cattle population affected crops affected - 11.36 lakh ha..

Gujarat 12240 villages in 22 out of 25 districts affected by drought like situation. 291 lakh population and 107 lakh cattle population affected 13.50 lakh ha. cropped area affected

Madhya 22490 villages in 32 out of 45 districts affected by drought like situation. Pradesh 127.10 lakh human population and 85.78 lakh cattle population affected crops affected - 39.52 lakh ha.

Orissa 15000 villages in 28 out of 30 districts affected by drought like situation. 119.50 lakh human population and 65.54 lakh cattle population affected crops affected - 11.00 lakh ha.

Rajasthan 31000 villages in 31 out of 32 districts affected by drought like situation. 330.41 lakh human population and 399.69 lakh cattle population affected crops affected - 89.47 lakh ha.

Himachal All 12 districts affected by drought like situation. Pradesh 46.64 lakh human population and cropped area in 0.88 lakh ha. affected.

Maharashtra 20,000 villages in 26 out of 35 districts affected by drought like situation 454.99 lakh human population and 2.58 lakh cattle population affected crops affected - 45.00 lakh h.a.

Uttaranchal Only one district namely Tehri Garhwal facing water scarcity conditions

1. (b) RESERVOIR POSITION:

- As per the report of the Central Water Commission (CWC) which monitors reservoir position, as on 25.5.2001, the total live storage in 70 important reservoirs in the country was 22.32 TMC (17 per cent of the storage capacity at full reservoir level) against 29.65 TMC (23 per cent of the storage capacity at full reservoir level) of previous year and 34.65 TMC (27 per cent of the storage capacity at full reservoir level) which is the average storage of last ten years. The storage was less than the last years position by 7.33 TMC and less than the average of last ten years storage by 12.32 TMC.
- Current storage position lowest in the decade.
- Total water availability in major reservoirs is critically low in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Orissa.

- Latest position of storage being monitored by Central Water Commission (for the week ending 12.05.2001):

State No. of Reservoir Full Reservoir Capacity(TMC) Water available this year(TMC) Water Available last year(TMC) % of water availability this year w.r.t last year storage

State	No. of Reservoir	Full Reservoir Capacity(TMC)	Water available this year(TMC)	Water Available last year(TMC)	% of water availability this year w.r.t last year storage
Gujarat	7	10.383	0.684	2.704	24.20%
Rajasthan	3	3.538	0.619	1.011	61.20%
Madhya Pradesh	3	11.873	0.551	1.809	30.50%
Chhattisgarh	2	3.813	0.896	0.895	100.10%
Orissa	6	13.872	2.726	4.615	59.10%
Maharashtra	10	9.913	2.275	3.758	60.50%
Himachal Pradesh	2	13.774	1.182	1.715	69.50%
Uttaranchal	1	2.196	0.668	0.372	179.60%

Canal releases position: In Rajasthan, from the Indira Gandhi Canal 1650 cusec water released as against 8000 cusec last year, and from Bikaner Canal 1350 cusec water released against 1800 cusec released last year.

1(c) GROUND WATER AVAILABILITY

- The ground water table has depleted considerably in the entire drought affected States.
- In a number of districts, fall in water level has been at a rate more than 20 CM per year. There are 8 such districts in Chhattisgarh, 13 in Gujarat, 30 in Madhya Pradesh, 18 in Orissa and 15 in Rajasthan.
- Before the onset of the Southwest monsoon 2000, there has been considerable fall in water levels in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, part of Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Rajasthan.
- Tubewells position of CGWB as on 04.5.2001 is as under:-

State Handed over Offered yet to be handed over

State	Handed over	Offered	yet to be handed over
Gujarat	104	177	17
Rajasthan	247	235	35
Madhya Pradesh	211	41	20
Chhattisgarh	97	150	74
Orissa	176	394	0
Maharashtra	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-
Uttaranchal	-	-	-
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Total	835	997	146
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2. STATUS OF CROPS

2(a) Kharif Crops

- Kharif estimates of 102.7 millions tonnes of foodgrains for the country as a whole may need slight downward revision mainly on account of paddy crop failure in Chhattisgarh, Orissa, etc.

2(b) Rabi Crops

- The rainfall deficiency in monsoon 2000 in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh is expected to reduce total area coverage under Rabi 2000-2001. Major decline in area coverage anticipated in case of wheat, pulses and oilseeds.

3. STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

3.a MANAGEMENT OF DROUGHT

- Department of Agriculture & Cooperation as the nodal Department of Disaster Management keeping a constant watch on the situation from the beginning.
- In October 2000 the Drought Contingency Action plan was circulated to the States.
- The Central Teams visited Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh (9th to 11th November, 2000), Orissa (26th to 30th November, 2000), Rajasthan (3rd to 6th December, 2000), Gujarat (19th to 21st December, 2000) and later on Himachal Pradesh, (27th to 30th March, 2001) for assessment of drought situation.
- The Group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister and Ministers

of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water Resources, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution and the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission as Members has held meetings 7.12.2001, 03.01.2001, 17.01.2001 and 10.4.2001 and reviewed drought mitigation measures undertaken by Central /State Departments.

- Drought Management Group (DMG) under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary has been constituted to monitor and coordinate drought mitigation at implementation level. DMG held meetings on 15.12.2000, 17.01.2001, 01.03.2001, 19.04.2001 and 10.5.2001 reviewed the steps taken by the Central /State Departments.

- The drought mitigation efforts have also been put up on the web-site viz., www.ndmindia.nic.in.

3.b IMPORTANT DECISIONS AND GOOD PRACTICES

- The important decisions taken by the Central Government and which could be termed as good practices are as follows:-

i) The Central Government monitored the situation very closely from the very beginning and advised the State Governments for initiating timely action. This sensitised the administrative machinery on ground and helped in containing the adverse impact of drought.

ii) The States took early steps to notify the drought affected areas and the drought mitigation measures could proceed timely.

iii) Released initially 5 lakh MT foodgrains in the month of January 2001 itself free of cost for Food for Work Programme for generating additional employment opportunities.

iv) An amount of Rs.280 crore was released in the early part of the year 2001 to the drought affected States so that relief activities could be undertaken by the States timely.

v) Additional quantity of Six lakh MT has further been released free of cost under Food for Work Programme.

vi) The Food for Work Programme has created 12 crore additional man-days and this figure will go up to 32 crore man-days by the end of June 2001.

vii) The value of foodgrains released free of cost under Food for Work Programme is about Rs. 950 crore even at BPL rates and will be about 1900 crore if calculated at APL rates.

viii) 1.70 lakh MT feed category foodgrains released for use as cattle feed. Although the lifting of feed category foodgrains is not much at present but with pressure on available fodder in coming months, these foodgrains will be of great help to the cattle.

ix) The Ministry of Railways is undertaking transportation of water and fodder without charging any money to the States. The estimates cost to Railways will be about Rs. 80 crore. This step has reassured people in the drought-affected area that their need of drinking water will be met.

Rail Transportation of Water : (as on 30.4.2001)

State	Gauge	No. of Wagons loaded	Cumulative
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Rajasthan	BG	22	965
Rajasthan	MG	100	2418
Gujarat	MG	100	1956

Rail Transportation of Fodder (as on 30.4.2001)

Gujarat March 38 rakes

 April 72 rakes

- x) D/o Expenditure, M/o Food and M/o Rural Development will evolve a simple system of transfer of moneys to FCI with a view to minimising delays and not diluting State Government control on inter-district allocations.
- xi) The Central Ground Water Board handed over 620 exploratory tube-wells and another 890 tube-wells offered for drinking water purposes. This has augmented the sources of drinking water with the States.
- xii) The Department of Drinking Water Supply have relaxed their guidelines not only in regard to release of funds but also for allowing funds for renovation, restoration, replacement and rejuvenation of the existing/defunct drinking water schemes. This has greatly helped the States in making functional the defunct water supply sources and thereby increasing the drinking water supply.
- xiii) The State Governments were requested to identify at least one source of water for drinking purposes and earmark it. The villages, which do not have any source of drinking water, were advised to be tide up with the nearby villages. As a result of this exercise, the villages, which did not have any source of water supply and were required to be fed through the water tankers, are now minimal.
- xiv) The States have been advised to take special care for health and nutrition of the vulnerable sections viz. children, pregnant and nursing women, aged, infirm and destitutes. The different programmes under ICDS, mid-day meal, old age pension and nutritional programmes have taken good care of this vulnerable section.
- xv) The cattle health is in good shape and there are no adverse reports. The orders for ban of fodder movement were issued by the Government of India as per the request and requirement of the State.

3.c MID REVIEW

- The Central Teams have again visited these States from 15th to 17th April, 2001
- It has been reported that the better planning and management and the timely intervention has helped in minimizing the drought affects
- The situation in spite of being quite difficult and in succession in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh is well under control.

3.d REQUEST BY STATES

- The States have requested for immediate release of first half yearly installment of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Ministry of Finance will be releasing the amount as soon as the utilisation certificate is made available by the State concerned.
- The States have also requested for relaxation of guidelines issued by the Department of Rural Development for Food For Work Programme
- The States have requested that the Food For Work Programme may cover all schemes which have appreciable labour component
- In the meeting of Disaster Management Group on 19th April, 2001 it has been agreed to expand the Food For Work Programme as this will help in generation of substantial employment opportunities

4. FOODGRAIN ALLOCATIONS (Lifting as on 15-5-2001)

(A) AT BPL RATES

(Quantity in tonnes)

S. No.	State	Allotment			Lifting		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	Chhattisgarh	90,600	0	90,600	22087	0	22087
2	Rajasthan	0	2,52,500	2,52,500	0	0	0
3	Gujarat	15,000	60,000	75,000	4970	15775	20745

(B) FREE OF COST - FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME

(Quantity in tonnes)

S. No.	State	Allotment			Lifting		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	Chhattisgarh	4,07,000	-	4,07,000	2,05,500	-	2,05,500
2	Gujarat	20,000	70,000	90,000	9980	35,223	45,213
3	Himachal Pradesh	11,549	-	11,549	4,947	-	4,947
4	Maharashtra	2,000	8,000	10,000	1,999	6113	8112
5	Madhya Pradesh	31,424	81,655	1,13,079	11,721	32,355	44,706
6	Orissa	1,50,000@		1,50,000	83,934	14,617	98,551
7	Rajasthan	-	3,18,145	3,18,145	-	1,08,620	1,08,620
	Total	6,21,973	4,77,800	10,99,773	3,18,081	1,96,938	5,15,019

* AM and Secretary (A&C) visited drought affected Chhattisgarh on 8th April 2001 and it was reported that the entire quantity of foodgrains have been lifted.

The Chhattisgarh Government has been actually allocated 2,98,507 tonnes of paddy in lieu of 2.00 lakh MT rice under Food for Work Programme

@ In case of Orissa wheat allocation of 20,000 tonnes has been converted into rice allocation but 14,617 tonnes of lifting of wheat has been reported.

(C) EARTHQUAKE -FREE OF COST

(Quantity in tonnes)

S. No.	State	Allotment of			Lifting of		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	Gujarat	20,000	80,000	1,00,000	18,410	71,074	89,484

(D) FEED CATEGORY FOODGRAINS -FREE OF COST

(Quantity in tonnes)

S. No	State	Quantity available	Quantity lifted
1	Chhattisgarh	17,207	
2	Himachal Pradesh	0	
3	Madhya Pradesh	17,207	
4	Maharashtra	7,940	1,381
5	Gujarat	6,154	
6	Orissa	5,544	
7	Rajasthan	3,748	1,904
8	Uttaranchal (U.P.)	13,024	

Bhartiya Jeev Jantu Kalyan Board has lifted 930 MTs and 224 MTs of such foodgrains in the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh respectively out of allocation of 1500 MTs.

5. MEMORANDA RECEIVED FROM STATES

- Memoranda received from Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan for Central assistance in the wake of drought. No memorandum received from Maharashtra and Uttaranchal.
- Rajasthan has sought assistance of Rs. 2367.80 crore for employment generation,

cattle conservation, drinking water supply and input subsidy.

- Orissa has requested for Rs. 443.95 crore for supply of medicine, irrigation projects, animal care, fodder, rural water supply and employment generation.
- Madhya Pradesh has sought total assistance of Rs. 795.42 crore for employment generation, drinking water arrangements, input subsidy, cattle care and fodder.
- Chhattisgarh has projected a demand of Rs. 570.62 crore for employment generation, drinking water arrangements, input subsidy and cattle care and subsidy for fodder.
- Gujarat has projected a requirement of Rs. 1852.83 crore for employment generation, drinking water arrangements, input subsidy and cattle maintenance, payment of cash doles, water supply and other miscellaneous expenses including nutrition, health, etc.
- Himachal Pradesh has made a revised requirement of Rs.143.56 crore for employment generation, drinking water arrangements, horticultural input subsidy and cattle maintenance, payment of cash doles, water supply and other miscellaneous expenses including nutrition, health, etc.

5. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR NATURAL CALAMITIES AS RECOMMENDED BY ELEVENTH FINANCE COMMISSION (EFC)

- Scheme of Calamity Relief Fund continued for 2000-05 and contributed by the Centre and States in the ratio of 3:1.
- Scheme of National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) discontinued.
- National Calamity Contingency fund (NCCF) set up with initial corpus of Rs. 500 crore to deal with calamities of severe nature.
- NCCF Scheme issued on 15.12.2000.

6. CALAMITY RELIEF FUND (CRF) and NATIONAL CALAMITY CONTINGENCY FUND (NCCF) 2000-01

(Rs. in crore)

STATE	ALLOCATION	CRF Central Share		NCCF
		TOTAL	RELEASED	RELEASED
Gujarat	161.4	121.05	131.14	85
Madhya Pradesh/	62.64	46.98	46.98	35
Chhattisgarh	27.47	20.6	20.6	40
Orissa	109.47	82.1	103.65**	35
Rajasthan	207	155.25	196.00*	85

Uttaranchal	32.27	24.28	7.09	-
Himachal Pradesh	43.49	32.61	32.61	-
Maharashtra	157.2	117.9	117.9	-

* 25 per cent advance release of CRF has been made from year 2001-02.

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6 (A) CALAMITY RELIEF FUND (CRF) and NATIONAL CALAMITY CONTINGENCY FUND (NCCF) 2001-02

(Rs. in crores)

States	Centre's contribution to CRF for 2001-02	Amount released
Chhattisgarh	21.63	21.63
Gujarat	127.1	117.01 @
Himachal Pradesh	34.24	34.24
Madhya Pradesh	49.32	49.32
Maharashtra	123.8	123.8
Orissa	86.21	64.66=
Rajasthan	163.01	122.26*

@ Rs. 10.0851 crores released in advance in 2000-01

= Rs. 21.5525 crores released in advance in 2000-01

* Rs. 40.7525 crores released in advance in 2000-01.

7. STEPS TAKEN BY STATES

The details of the Steps taken by the States for drought mitigation can be seen on their web sites:

Access also through www.nic.in.

Addresses of State websites are

Chhattisgarh www.chhattisgarh.nic.in
Gujarat www.gujaratindia.com
Himachal Pradesh www.himachal.nic.in
Madhya Pradesh www.agrimp.nic.in
Maharashtra www.maharashtra.gov.in
Orissa www.orissagov.com
Rajasthan www.rajgovt.org
Uttaranchal www.nic.in/uttaranchal

8. STEPS REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN BY STATES

- Drinking water likely to be critical: regular monitoring and concerted efforts required tackling the problem.
- More emphasis for persuading farmers to grow crops which requires less water.
- Completion of all on going and new drinking water projects.
- Advance action for opening of fodder banks/depots and cattle camps.
- Continued availability of employment opportunities to check migration of labour.
- Initiate Food for Work Programme at all required places.
- Coordination with NGOs and other agencies will help in optimum utilisation and proper dovetailing of relief efforts.
- States to include the complete details of drought mitigation measures in their State website.
- As more and more data is being generated, States to communicate to Central Government Ministries/Departments through e-mail which will result in quick receipt of their communications.

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