

Drought: A big worry for the state Government

“Maharashtra is facing one of its worst droughts in the last four decades. Out of 35 districts in the state, 34 are facing severe drought.” And “out of 250 ponds in Maharashtra, 150 have run dry, creating the drought like situation in the state,” the Agriculture Minister has said.



A village is declared as drought affected in case its area under cultivation shrinks by more than half after the rains fail. Residents of these villages are then entitled to benefits such as rescheduling of crop loans, interest waivers, rebates on electricity bills and doing away with college fees for students.

Water scarcity has already become the big worry for the state government.

The drought will take a toll on the state’s overall development effort, chief minister said. “The agriculture growth rate is going to take a hit due to drought and it will also affect funds available for developmental work as a substantial amount is going to be spent on drought-mitigating measures,” he

said in an interview.



In a touching gesture, an eight-year-old schoolboy donated his savings from pocket money and birthday party for the cause of drought-hit people in Maharashtra in Mumbai on Tuesday. He specially went to meet Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan in the legislative assembly and handed over Rs.5,000 for the Chief Minister's Relief .

Links for further information:

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/cities/schoolboy-donates-savings-for-drought-relief-341791>

<http://post.jagran.com/Centre-allocates-Rs-29-00-crore-to-disaster-hit-states-1363255207#sthash.DMD8YXfD.dpuf>

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/pvkJrd1C2WRX2P1RELeJ/Maharashtra-faces-drought-as-opposition-alleges-mismanagement.html>