

4) DIAGNOSIS OF EMERGING DROUGHTS

Based on experienced gained some warning signals of impending droughts have been identified for various stages of our agricultural cycle they are:

For Kharif (Sowing June to August)

- i) Delay in onset of South-West Monsoon.
- ii) Long 'break' in activity of South-West Monsoon.
- iii) Insufficient rains during the month of July.
- iv) Rise in Price of fodder.
- v) Absence of rising trend in Reservoir Levels.
- vi) Drying up sources of Rural Drinking Water Supply.
- vii) Declining trend in progress of sowing over successive weeks compared to corresponding figures for "normal years".

For Rabi (Sowing November to January)

- i) Deficiency in closing figures for South - West Monsoon (30th September).
- ii) Serious depletion in level of Ground Water compared to figures for "normal years".
- iii) Fall in the level of Reservoirs compared to figures for the corresponding period in the "normal years" - indication of poor recharge following SW Monsoon.
- iv) Indication of marked soil moisture stress.
- v) Rise in price of fodder.
- vi) Increased deployment of water through tankers
(For Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry the crucial period is North East Monsoon - October to December).

Other Seasons

- ❖ For areas like Gujarat, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada and North Interior Karnataka the crucial period is March / April when due to chronic hydrological drought, many areas develop acute scarcity of Drinking Water.
- ❖ For specific states and particular crops there are particular times of years when progress of rains is of special significance e.g. February rains in Kerala for plantation crops.