ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ, ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖನಾ ಶಾಖೆ KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RESEARCH AND REFERENCE BRANCH

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Why has govt. not issued fresh notification on drought, asks HC

Court to ask State to declare 65 taluks as drought-hit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Wondering why the State government had failed to officially declare 65 taluks as drought-hit despite lapse of earlier notification issued a fortnight ago, the Karnataka High Court on Wednesday asked how drought relief could be provided in the absence of a fresh declaration about drought.

Also, the court indicated that it would pass an interim order on Friday directing the State to declare that 65 taluks are under drought and to set up cattle camps in each taluk under



FROM THE COURT

drought. A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice H.T. Narendra Prasad made oral observations during the hearing on two PIL petitions filed by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority and one Mallikarjuna A., agriculturist and resident of Cheluru village of Gubbi taluk in Tumakuru district, on the issue of taking care of cattle during drought.

The Bench made the ob-

servations on noticing that the notification issued on December 28, 2018, declaring that 156 taluks are under drought had lapsed as its validity was for six months.

As the Government counsel stated that at present only 65 taluks are under drought as many taluks had received rain, the Bench said the government should have made a fresh assessment and declaration of drought before June 28, 2019.

Meanwhile, the Bench directed the Government counsel to submit funds available in the State Disaster Response Fund, District Disaster Response Fund, State Disaster Mitigation Fund, and District Disaster Mitigation Fund as per Section 48 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.