

As per the information furnished by the State Governments, as on 1st April 1999, 97.59% of the rural habitations have access to drinking water facilities. In terms of population, out of a rural population of 62.87 crore (1991 census), as on 1st April 1999, approximately 61.64 crore have been provided with access to drinking water facilities and the coverage is lowest in States of Kerala, Nagaland and Punjab. As regard urban population, out of a population of 23.93 crore as estimated for 31* March, 1997, approximately 21.57 crore have been provided with access to drinking water facilities till 31" March, 1997 and the coverage is lowest in Dadra & Nagar Haveli (UT) and States of Mizoram and Assam.

All the States have been requested to prepare action plans to provide drinking water to all rural habitations in the next five years. The objective could be achieved, subject to availability of funds. Similarly, 100% urban population is targeted to be provided with safe drinking water facilities in the Ninth Plan Period, subject to availability of funds.

In order to ensure sustainability of the systems created under the Rural Water Supply Programme, the Government has initiated action to institutionalise community participation in the planning and implementation of the Rural Water Supply Schemes.

Connectivity of villages in Madhya Pradesh

1484. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages in Madhya Pradesh which are not connected by Pucca all-weather roads;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have prepared a National Rural Connectivity Scheme; and
- (c) what Central Government will do in the next four years to ensure hundred per cent connectivity of villages in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh have intimated that 22,945 villages are yet to be connected by roads in the State.

[8 March, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) and (c) The Central Government are in the process of formulating a National Rural Connectivity Programme and have set up a National Rural Road Development Committee whose recommendations are awaited.

Employment generation schemes in Assam

1485. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched any schemes and programmes to provide employment to the people of Assam in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) are the major employment generation schemes launched by this Ministry in rural areas throughout the country, including the State of Assam. The objective of JGSY is the creation of demand driven community village infrastructure and generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in rural areas. EAS is the single wage employment programme for creation of additional wage employment through manual work for the rural poor. SGSY is a self-employment programme aimed at providing employment by establishing micro-enterprises in the rural areas.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Consolidation of land

1486. DR. GOPAL RAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that worried about the growing fragmentation of farm properties, the Centre has decided to conduct a massive operation for consolidation of land holdings, including computerization of all land records in the country;