

(b) whether it is also a fact that seepage complaints are lying unattended to, despite oral and written complaints of the residents; and

(c) what concrete steps his Ministry would take to plug perennial seepage problems in the aforesaid flats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir, complaints of seepage in M.S. Flats, Peswa Road, New Delhi are not perennial. These are attended as and when received.

(b) Three such complaints in respect of Flat Nos. A 1/4, A 2/4 and B 6/5 which were pending have since been attended to.

(c) Seepage is not a perennial problem. However, preventive maintenance measures to be taken before ensuing monsoon will reduce the chances of seepages.

Woes of Urban Water Supply

1968. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned Going deep into woes of urban water supply appearing in the Indian Express, dated the 9th February, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that deficiencies of the protected water supply, sewerage and low cost sanitation systems, storm water drainage and refuse collection for urban areas are on a very high side;

(c) if so, what are Government's future plan *vis-a-vis* techniques being followed in some important cities of the world; and

(d) by when these plan would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of information furnished by different State implementing agencies *viz.* Public Health Departments/Water Supply Boards, 90% of the urban population is reported to have access to safe drinking water facilities and about 50% of the urban population have access to sanitation facilities. However, the service standards of these basic facilities in many urban areas are not as per prescribed norms. As far as Solid Waste Management is concerned, it is estimated

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that about one lakh metric tonne of municipal solid waste is generated daily in the country and the collection efficiency ranges between 70-90% in major metro cities and upto 50% in other cities and towns.

(c) and (d) Urban water supply, sanitation, drainage and solid waste management are State subjects. As such, it is the responsibility of the State Governments and urban local bodies to plan, implement and provide adequate funds for the urban water supply, sewerage/drainage and solid waste management schemes. As of now Central assistance is being provided to different State Governments for implementation of water supply schemes under the centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme for towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 census; and for conversion of dry latrines into pour flush twin pit toilets and construction of such toilets where non-exist under the Centrally sponsored Low Cost Sanitation Scheme.

In pursuance of the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 888/96 filed by Ms. Almitra H. Patel, the Ministry of Urban Development constituted a Technology Advisory Group on 18.8.99 for a period of five years with the objectives of collecting information on various proven technologies, provide technical assistance to urban local bodies, set benchmark on solid waste management for local bodies, channelise and make optimum use of funds earmarked for Solid Waste Management projects, develop IEC (Information, Education & Communication) material for awareness programmes, human resource development and capacity building.

Jhuggi Dwellers on Government Land Allotted to AIIMS

1969. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the new item captioned ""AIIMS to expand once it retrieves land from jhuggi dwellers in Gautam Nagar" which appeared in the Times of India, dated the 10th February, 2000;

(b) whether after a lapse of decade the AIIMS, a prime medical institution could not extend its activities because of J.J. cluster;

(c) whether similar JJ cluster does exist on Government's prime land in Alaknanda opposite Kalka Public School since more than a decade; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to remove these clusters in particular as also to check such situation in general on permanent basis?