

[22 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the action taken to clear the projects sent by the State Government relating to Gayatri Sankshema Vedika, Secunderabad and Dheenajana Abhyudaya Seva Samithi, Medak?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA):

(a) Association of UNDP with the Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD) Programme has not yet been finalised.

(b) The Projects submitted by Gayatri Sankshema Vedika, Secunderabad and Dheenajana Abhyudaya Seva Mandal, Hyderabad have been sanctioned under the TREAD Programme.

De-nationalisation of Coal Sector

***348. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:**

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the proposal to de-nationalise the coal sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the question.

Requirement of Potable Water in Maharashtra and Gujarat

***349. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:** Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the current requirement of potable water in rural areas of Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the requirement is being met in rural areas of these State; and

(d) the measures Government propose to initiate to meet the full requirement of potable water of the two States within a time frame?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA):

(a) to (d) Rural Water Supply is a State subject and drinking water facilities to rural habitations are provided by the State Governments under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government endeavours to supplement the efforts of the State by providing assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated

Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Further the powers to plan, sanction and implement individual rural water supply schemes have also been delegated to the State Governments.

As per the norms adopted for providing drinking water facilities to the rural habitation of the country, forty litres per capita per day (lpcd) is to be provided for humans. In addition to this, a provision of 30 lpcd for animals could be provided in hot and cold desert/ecosystems in 227 blocks of 36 DDP districts of the country. A drinking water source is to be provided for every 250 persons and it should exist within 1.6 km of the habitation in plains or 100 meter elevation in hilly areas.

The rural population of Maharashtra and Gujarat as per the 1991 census is 483.956 lakh and 270.635 lakh respectively. Hence, when calculated on the basis of above norms, the daily requirement of drinking water, for the 1991 census rural population of Maharashtra and Gujarat could be assessed as 19358.24 lakh litres and 10825.40 lakh litres respectively. No assessment of requirement of water for cattle population for DDP districts has been made.

The habitations are categorised as Fully Covered (FC), Partially Covered (PC), or Not Covered (NC) on the basis of the above norms.

As per the survey conducted by the States to assess the status of availability of drinking water in rural areas in 1991—94, updated in 1996-97 and information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra and Gujarat regarding coverage during 1997—99, the status of rural habitation covered with access to drinking water facilities as on 1.4.99 is as under:

State	NC	PC	FC	Total
Maharashtra	1515	31811	43798	77124
Gujarat	437	4639	25193	30269

The State Governments have been asked to prepare Action Plans to cover all the remaining rural habitations with access to drinking water facilities in the next five years in consonance with the National Agenda for Governance of this Government.

Fake Currency Racket

*350. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of operation of inter-State fake currency notes racket in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the amount of fake currency notes seized since 1998 and the number of persons apprehended and punished?