

Converting toxic underground water into potable water

1055. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up any scheme for converting toxic underground water into potable water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. However, Government of India assists State Governments through the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Under ARWSP 20% of the funds provided to the States are earmarked for tackling water quality problems.

Non-availability of data regarding BPL population

1056. SHRI R.C. SINGH:

SHRI K. E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-availability of BPL data in the States has been the biggest bottleneck in implementing various welfare schemes targeted for BPL population;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to undertake a survey to identify the real BPL population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The BPL Census to identify the poor households living in the rural areas is carried out generally in the beginning of a Five Year Plan so that they could be provided assistance under different programmes of the Ministry. The last BPL Census 2002 was conducted for the 10th Five Year Plan, however, there was a considerable delay in finalizing its results as the matter was subjudice. In this situation, the States and UTs have been using the BPL list prepared on the basis of BPL Census 1997. After the vacation of the stay on 14.2.2006, the States were issued detailed guidelines to finalise the BPL list on the basis of BPL Census 2002. Many States took considerable time to decide the cut off scores and to dispose of a large number of appeals received under the two-stage appeal mechanism to redress the public grievances. Most of the States/UTs have finalized the BPL list except Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Manipur, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura, Lakshadweep and Puducherry.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development has already constituted an Expert Group to recommend the suitable methodology for undertaking the next BPL Census. The Expert Group is expected to submit its report within six months and the next Census is to be conducted based on the new methodology.

Projects under NREGS in Orissa

1057. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently initiated to set up hundreds of projects under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total expenditure earmarked for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. In accordance with Section 13(1) of NREG Act 2005, the Panchayats at district, intermediate and village level are the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the Schemes made under the Act. Section 16(1) of the Act provides that the Gram Panchayat shall be responsible for identification of the projects in the Gram Panchayat area to be taken up under a scheme as per the recommendations of the Gram Sabha and the Ward Sabhas. Proposals for the development projects of the Gram Panchayats are sent to the Programme Officer for preliminary approval who sends them to district Panchayat for final approval. Thus, projects under NREGS are neither initiated nor approved by the Central Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

TSC in Andhra Pradesh

1058. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Andhra Pradesh, where Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) operates at present with the assistance of the Union Government;

(b) the fund allocation made by the Union Government for the campaign for the State during each of the last three years and for 2005-06;

(c) whether all the districts of the State are to be covered by the campaign;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) The Districts of Andhra Pradesh where Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) projects have been approved at presents are — Adilabad, Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah, East Godavari, Guntur, Karimnagar, Khammam, Krishna, Kurnool, Mahbubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Rangareddi, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Warangal and West Godavari.