

Increase in water tariffs

508. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase water tariffs in Delhi; if so, the details in this regard;

(b) what are the reasons warranting such a hike; and

(c) what is the extent of loss incurred per year on account of theft, wastage from public lines and non-payment of tariffs due, which are written off during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for increasing the water tariff in the area of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the New Delhi Municipal Committee. However, the Delhi Cantonment Board has reported that the water tariff is proposed to be revised both for domestic and commercial uses as per details given below because the present rates were fixed about half a century ago and are uneconomical;

DOMESTIC*Existing*

25 Ps per K.L. upto 20 K.L.

Above 20 K.L. at 50 Ps per K.L.

Proposed

50 Ps per K.L. upto 20 K.L.

Rs. 1 per K.L. above 20 K.L.

COMMERCIAL*Existing*

Rs. 1.50 per K.L. upto 20 K.L.

Proposed

Rs. 2/- upto 20 K.L. and

Rs. 2.50 per K.L. above 20 K.L.

(c) Losses due to leakages, wastage, theft and a variety of other factors are around 20% of the total production of water in the Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking

(DWS&SDU). Such losses in respect of New Delhi Municipal Committee are about 13-14 per cent of the total water received by them in bulk from the Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking. No dues have been written off on account of non-payment either by the New Delhi Municipal Committee or the Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking.

Technology Mission on Drinking Water

509. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue their efforts to implement the technology mission on drinking water;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the achievements of Government in making drinking water available to backward and tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh under this mission?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Government are continuing their efforts in implementing the programme of supply of safe drinking water and related activities in rural areas.

(b) The main activities of the Drinking Water Mission are implementation of Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and State Sponsored Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) which relate to supply of safe drinking water to 'no source' problem villages (PVs) and raising the partially covered villages for full coverage, implementation of schemes in 55 mini mission project areas in different States/UTs, setting up of district level laboratories and mobile laboratories for water quality analysis, supply of potable water through alternative schemes or by putting up water treatment facilities like desalination plants, iron removal plants, defluoridation plants etc. Water harvest-

ing structures are also taken up for conservation of water. Step wells are also being converted into sanitary wells with a view to eradicate guineaworm in affected areas.

(c) In Madhya Pradesh, out of 26,647 problem villages in 35 Tribal Sub Plan Districts, 26,531 problem villages have so far been covered with atleast one source of safe drinking water facility. Out of 16,785 identified problem villages in the districts covered under Special Component Plan (Harijan and Backward), 16,743 problem villages have already been covered with atleast one source of safe drinking facility.

Changes in Labour Laws

देश में पट्टाधृति प्रणाली का उन्मूलन

510. श्री राम चन्द्र विक्रम: क्या शहरी विकास यंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या समूचे देश से पट्टाधृति प्रणाली का उन्मूलन करने सम्बन्धी कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

शहरी विकास यंत्री (श्री मुरासोली मारन):

(क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) चूंकि भूमि राज्य का विषय है, इसलिये अपने-अपने राज्यों में भू-धृति पद्धति के बारे में निर्णय लेना, राज्य सरकारों का कार्य है।

511. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plans are under Government's consideration for changes in the Labour Laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS

PASWAN): (a) to (c) The review of the labour laws is a continuing process with a view to making amendments as required according to the needs of the changing situation.

Calcutta Circular Railway System

512. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent news report appearing in a section of the Press that the work of Calcutta circular railway system could be completed within six months;

(b) what is the problem being encountered in the execution of the work; and

(c) what steps have been taken to get the work started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction work on the remaining 3.5 km length of the project from Ultadanga Road to Dum Dum junction is held up on account of obstructions caused by encroachers on Railway land.

(c) Assistance- of the State Government has been sought.

Subsidence and Accidents in Raniganj Coalfield

513. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing incidences of subsidences and accidents in the coal mines of ECL in Raniganj Coalfield;

(b) if so, what were the numbers of subsidences and accidents during the last three years;

(c) what were the nature of the sub-