

resources and their conjunctive use, should be envisaged right from the project planning stage and should form an integral part of the project implementation.

- Over-exploitation of ground water should be avoided especially near the coast to prevent ingress of seawater into sweet aquifers.
- Improvements in existing strategies, innovation of new techniques resting on a strong science and technology base are needed to eliminate the pollution of surface and ground water resources, to improve water quality.
- Private sector participation should be encouraged in planning, development and management of water resources projects for diverse uses, wherever feasible. Private sector participation may help in introducing innovative ideas, generating financial resources and introducing corporate management and improving service efficiency and accountability to users.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Quantity of fluoride in water

†3020. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has fixed any norms regarding the quantity of fluoride in water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any survey in various cities of the country with a view to ascertain fluoride contents in water; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published a Standard named "BIS 10500:1991 Drinking Water — Specification", which prescribes the essential and desirable characteristics required to be tested for ascertaining the suitability of water for drinking purposes. The Standard in respect of Fluoride prescribes the desirable limit as 1.0 milligram per litre (mg/l), and permissible limit in the absence of alternate source as 1.5mg/l.

(c) and (d) Central Ground Water Board monitors the ground water quality, once in a year on regional basis, through a network of 15640 observation wells located throughout the country. The fluoride content in the ground water samples collected from observation wells is found to be below 1.0 mg/l in most part of the country. At some locations, the fluoride content in ground water is found to exceed 1.5 mg/l.

Medium Irrigation Projects

3021. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of medium irrigation projects, out of the total 221 (as per the Tenth Plan) projects, undertaken in the State of West Bengal in the Tenth Plan;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.