

Deaths due to contaminated drinking water

4293. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of deaths have occurred due to use of contaminated drinking water in the country particularly in Western Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government in this regard along with the details of the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken to protect the water resources and its quality in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA): (a) and (b) No such reports have been received in the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development.

(c) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. Under the Centrally sponsored scheme National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), powers to plan, approve and implement water supply schemes vest with the States. While planning and implementing water supply schemes, States are to ensure that the water proposed to be supplied is potable. States can utilize upto 20% of their NRDWP allocation on 100% grant basis for ensuring sustainability of drinking water sources and another 20% on tackling water quality problems to provide safe drinking water to rural habitations. Further, they can utilize upto 5% of NRDWP funds on 100% grant basis for support activities which, *inter alia*, include setting up and strengthening of laboratories upto block/ sub-division level for water quality testing; training people for water quality monitoring and surveillance; providing water testing kits in each Gram Panchayat; awareness generation on various aspects of safe drinking water, etc. Based on the testing reports, States update data on the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) about the quality of drinking water sources in the habitations. Information of various technologies available for treatment of contaminated water is disseminated to the States. States can avail the expertise of various Technical agencies/ institutes at National and State level for tackling water quality problems. While finalizing their annual Action Plan for 2010-11 under NRDWP, the States have been requested to prioritize the coverage of water quality-affected habitations.

Employment target under MNREGA

4294. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: