

West Bengal. Pre-project activities are currently in progress and start of work on the first phase (a capacity of about 12000 MW out of total of 32100 MW) at these sites in the year 2012 is planned.

(d) Yes, Sir. However, no suitable site amongst the sites offered by the State Government could be identified in view of the seismic environment and presence of faults in the region.

(e) Not Applicable.

Deaths due to contaminated drinking water

*292. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of URBAN 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 corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken to protect the water resources and its quality in the country?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Urban Development does not maintain data related to deaths due to contaminated water. However, available reports indicate that 12 deaths occurred in Solapur City of Western Maharashtra in 2010 between 28th February and 22nd March, 2010 due to contamination of drinking water supply in some parts of the City.

(c) Urban water supply is the responsibility of the State Governments/Urban Local Bodies. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments and cities through various schemes such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Scheme for infrastructure Development of Satellite Towns/Counter magnets, North Eastern Region Urban Development Programme etc. The Ministry also lends technical assistance through training programmes, manuals and advisories including Handbook on Service Level Benchmarking.

Committee on biometrics

*293. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unique Identity Authority of India has set up a Committee on Biometrics;

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

(c) whether the said Committee has completed its study and submitted the report;

(d) if so, the details on the observations/recommendations of the said Committee; and

(e) the details of the action taken so far, by Government thereon?