

Provision of safe potable water

3048. SHRI N. K. SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, according to an UN report, in India over one lakh people die of water borne diseases annually;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether drinking water available in most of the districts in the country is highly polluted and contains fluoride nitrate and arsenic; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government has taken to provide safe potable water to every citizen in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) World Health Organization (WHO), in its publication titled 'Safer Water Better Health' published in 2008, have estimated the occurrence of 7,82,000 deaths in India yearly, attributable to unsafe water, insufficient sanitation and hygiene related disease.

(c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) undertakes monitoring of ground water regime through a network of observation wells located in various parts of the country. The data generated by the CGWB during the course of ground water regime monitoring and various scientific studies have revealed the occurrences of salinity, iron, fluoride and arsenic in the ground water beyond the permissible limit of drinking water standards (BIS-10500) in some parts of the country. The details are given in statement [Refer to the statement appended to Answer to USQ No. 3047 part (a)]

- (d) The steps taken by the Government to provide safe potable water are as follows:
- (i) The CGWB has conducted ground water exploration and field studies to ascertain the extent of contamination in ground water and for delineation of contaminant free aquifers in the affected areas. Suitable well designs including cement sealing techniques have been adopted for construction of contaminant free tube wells. Successful tube wells are handed over to the concerned state agencies for utilization. Mass awareness campaigns are also organized by the CGWB in the affected areas to make people aware of problems of water quality and remedial measures thereof.
 - (ii) Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) provides technical and financial assistance to the states under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to supplement the efforts of the states in providing potable water to the rural habitations.

- (iii) Ministry of Urban Development is providing central assistance under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) to supplement the efforts of the state governments in providing drinking water supply in urban areas.

Conversion of sea water into potable water

3049. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that plants have been installed in the country to convert sea water into good quality water for daily use;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any plan to increase the capacity of these plants and install new plant at other location; and
- (d) if so, the States where plants are going to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (d) Desalination plants have been set up to convert sea water into potable water at several locations by various Ministries / Departments and State Governments / Union Territories including the Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Department of Atomic Energy etc. The information provided by various Ministries / Departments in respect of the installed desalination plants and the new plants etc. is given in statement.

Statement

Installed desalination plants and the new plants etc.

Information provided by Ministries/ Department/ States/UTs	Plants installed	Further Programmes
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Administration	12 desalination plants in different parts of islands.	Port Blair Municipal Corporation has planned to install one new plant.
Department Atomic Energy	1 desalination plant installed at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre Mumbai. 2 desalination plants installed at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.	A sea water mechanical vapour compression distillation plant is currently under construction at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu.