

Drinking water crisis in urban areas

3320. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is a drinking water crisis in many urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether there have been predictions of an even more severe water crisis in the next few years, if adequate water conservation steps are not taken; and

(c) if so, any steps Government proposes to take to meet the challenges of water security and to prevent future water wars in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Urban Water Supply is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Governments/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to plan, design, execute, operate and maintain water supply projects with State Plan funds. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments/ULBs in providing drinking water, Ministry is extending Additional Central Assistance (ACA) under the ongoing Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). 151 water supply projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 19570.04 crore and 418 projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 7867.21 crore have been approved under the Urban Infrastructure and Governance and Urban Infrastructure Development for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) components respectively. Under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) implemented during 1994 to 2005 in towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991/2001 census, 1244 schemes were approved at a total cost of Rs. 1822.38 crore out of which 1012 have been reported completed/commissioned and 227 are in progress. Five have been dropped. The AUWSP has been subsumed under UIDSSMT *w.e.f.* 3.12.2005. Under the North Eastern Region Urban Development Programme (NERUDP) Phase I which covers capital cities in 5 states, water supply projects are being implemented in 4 cities (Agartala, Gangtok, Aizawl and Kohima). The water supply sector is also accorded high priority under the scheme for infrastructure development in Satellite towns. A 100 MLD reverse osmosis desalination plant has been approved for Chennai city at an estimated cost of Rs. 908.28 crore of which Rs. 871.24 crore is Central Government grant. Ministry is also supporting water sector reforms such as water harvesting, recycling and reuse of waste water, water audit and service level benchmarking.

Melting of glaciers

3321. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of glaciers on and around Himalayas which are