

Plan Period (2007). In respect of the Hill States, the Desert Areas (as identified in Desert Development Programme) as well as the Tribal (Schedule V) areas, the target was to connect habitations with a population of 250 persons and above, main reasons for delay in achievement of envisaged targets include inadequate institutional and contracting capacity with the State Governments, limited working seasons and delay in getting forest clearance of the land falling in the forest areas.

(d) The project proposals for connecting 78 per cent of the eligible habitations under PMGSY have been cleared and 52 per cent have been physically connected upto March, 2010. The States/Union Territories have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 65,640 crore till March, 2010.

Improving sanitation coverage in the country

147. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister is persuading the States the importance of coverage sanitation which now stands at just 66 per cent in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether sanitation coverage, particularly in rural areas, is not up to the mark; and

(d) if so, the details of plans made to achieve the total sanitation by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions and district management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA): (a) to (d) The Government of India administers the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a comprehensive programme started in the year 1999 to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas with the main goal of eradicating the practice of open defecation and ensuring clean environment. Total Sanitation Campaign is a demand driven, project based programme taking district as a unit. Sanitation coverage in rural areas of the country was only 21.9% as per census 2001. With the effective implementation of TSC, the sanitation coverage in rural areas of the country has increased to approximately 67% as of October 2010 as per the progress reported by the States through on line monitoring system maintained by the Department. To accelerate the sanitation coverage further, Information Education and Communication (IEC) and Human Resource Development (HRD), the key components to generate and meet demand for sanitation have been strengthened. Department

of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) is having regular reviews with the State Governments of the States that are lagging behind. A national conference of State Ministers in-charge of sanitation was held on 28th October 2010 at Vigyan Bhawan New Delhi to accelerate rural sanitation coverage. State level workshops are held to give district officials more exposure to good practices, encouraging them to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in implementation etc. Besides, the funds allocated for TSC in 2010-11 at Rs. 1580 crore reflect an increase of 31.67% over the previous year.

Unique Identity Card for MGNREGS workers

148. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to issue bio-metric Unique Identity Card to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Unique Identity Card (UID) estimated to be issued under the scheme, State-wise;

(d) the details of the cost likely to be incurred for issuing such cards; and

(e) the details of the head under which such cost will be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) It is proposed to collect the Bio-metric database of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers. The Biometric data will be UIDAI compliant.

(c) No Unique Identity Card is proposed to be issued under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Drinking Water Facility in Uttar Pradesh

149. DR. AKHILESH DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the habitations of Uttar Pradesh have been provided potable drinking water under Bharat Nirman Programme of the Government;

(b) if not, the number of habitations in the State which have not been provided with potable drinking water; and

(c) what steps Government has taken to ensure that all the habitations in the State get potable supply within the time-frame prescribed under Bharat Nirman?