

(b) The aim of the Government of India is to enable provision of rural drinking water to all habitations in all States including Rajasthan equitably and in this exercise all the States are encouraged to achieve the set goals.

(c) State Governments report to the Government of India habitations as 100% covered after they are able to provide regularly at least 40 lpcd to the households. Hence it is expected that 100% covered habitations are those which have at least 40 lpcd safe drinking water supply available.

(d) As per data provided by the State in the IMIS as on 1.4.2010, Rajasthan has 34,880 quality affected habitations of which 10,788 are fluoride affected, 8 arsenic affected, 60 iron affected, 23,168 salinity affected and 856 are nitrate affected.

Brahmaputra and Barak Rivers as National Waterways

1543. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had declared rivers Brahmaputra and Barak as National Waterways on the floor of the Parliament; and

(b) if so, whether the vessels are not plying on these rivers even after Government had declared them as National Waterways, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY) : (a) Yes, Sir. Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of River Brahmaputra (891 km) has been declared as a National Waterway in 1988. However, Barak river, is yet to be declared as a National Waterway.

(b) Various inland vessels for transportation of cargo and passengers are already plying in the declared stretch of River Brahmaputra.

Plying of Bangladesh India vessels on Indo-Bangladesh transit and trade route

1544. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of Bangladesh vessels plying on the inland water transit and trade route between India and Bangladesh out-numbers Indian vessels plying in the route;