

[2 December, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

upon the percentage of disability. Besides, a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs in case of each invalided/discharged officer and Rupees 2.5 lakhs in case of each Junior Commissioned Officer/Other Ranks having 100% disability are paid from Army Group Insurance Fund. The above amount is proportionately reduced up to 20% disability.

(b) Yes; Sir.

(c) War Disabled members of Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme will have free medical care for rest of their lives by making one time contribution which may be paid in three consecutive instalments.

Measures to improve standard of sports

†*7. SHRI RAJ MOHINDR SINGH MAJITHA:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate measures are not being taken to improve the standard of sports in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to ever increasing influence of politics and commercialization in the field of sports, problems are being faced to improve the standard of sports; and

(d) if not, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT):

(a) and (b) The development of sports is primarily the responsibility of the concerned National Sports Federations. Moreover, the "Sports" is a State subject. However, Government of India plays a facilitating and promotional role. For further improving the standard of sports, the National Sports Policy, 2001 has identified "broadbasing of sports" and "achieving excellence" as the two major strategies and efforts have been made to improve the standard of sports in the country. A number of Sports

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Promotional schemes are being implemented through Sports Authority of India (SAI). Efforts are also being made to provide international standard sports facilities and exposure to elite Indian sports persons within the country & abroad. Financial assistance as well as awards are given to promising sports persons, national record holders and medalists in national/international events.

(c) There is no such evidence.

(d) Does not arise.

Provision of safe drinking water

*8. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country where Government has not been able to provide safe drinking water, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to provide safe drinking water to the people of these villages;

(c) the total amount provided to each of the State Government for this purpose;

(d) whether the Central Government propose to take this task of safe drinking water on war footing with assistance from private sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (f) A habitation is said to be 'Not Covered' (NC) if at least 10 lpcd of safe drinking water is not available through a water source/point within a distance of 1.6 kilometres in plains and 100 metre elevation in hilly areas. The source/point may either be public or private in nature. As per the coverage status reported by the States till 24.11.2004 based on the Comprehensive Action Plan of 1999, there are 5557 'Not Covered' rural habitations in 9 States and one Union Territory, which