

PROGRAMME FOR TESTING DRINKING WATER IN NEW WELLS IN THE UNION TERRITORIES

*126. **SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme has been drawn up by Government for testing drinking water in new wells and tube-wells in the Union Territories; and

(b) whether any survey has been made to find out the number of people who drink water from tanks in those Territories?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is within the knowledge of the hon. Minister that there are no adequate arrangements for good water supply in the various colonies which are coming up all round Delhi?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: In parts of Delhi, as the House is aware, the arrangements for water supply are not satisfactory. Though water is had and it is chlorinated, yet in some of the localities I can see that water might be a little scarce.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether there are any arrangements for the people to get their water tested for drinking purposes in the Union Territories of Delhi, Manipur and Tripura?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, that is the information which we are waiting for.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government has been stressing that this should get all priority, that is to say, the provision of drinking water to the population should get priority. In view of this, why has the Government not taken any steps in respect of

territories under its direct control to provide the minimum facilities for drinking water?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, I am as anxious as the hon. Member for giving very high priority for drinking water but there is another thing which has higher priority and that is the availability of financial resources.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Do I understand that the Government has become so bankrupt that it is not possible to find the requisite finances to provide drinking water in the Union Territories?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: However warm my friend may be, the money that is necessary for fulfilling all our schemes is not there. We have to function according to the limitations imposed by finance. Obviously, the Government does not want to liquidate itself.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Has it been ascertained from the Planning Commission or the Ministry of Finance that they do not have the requisite finance for providing even the barest minimum necessities in the matter of drinking water?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It is not a matter for argument. We are determined to do our utmost to supply drinking water to every village. There the matter ends. Obviously, we have not got an Aladdin's Lamp with us. It takes a little time but this is in our programme that every village in India should be given drinking water and we have in fact taken some steps to that end even now.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: How much money was allocated during the Second Five Year Plan for provision of drinking water facilities and how much was spent for the rural areas?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Each of the Community Development Block had Rs. 50,000 and then the Planning Commission had budgeted some amount—sizeable amount—under development schemes for village water supply. Besides that we had an amount of Rs. 28 crores for rural pipe water supply of which a substantial amount has been spent. As the Prime Minister just now said, we are giving top priority to this and we shall be happy to allot as much as possible for rural water supply.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: I do not want to be told 'A substantial amount has been spent'. I want to know the actual amount spent. I understand only very little has been spent.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Mere emphasis does not reduce the amount. A sum of Rs. 18 crores has been spent. (Interruptions.) And that is not all. We are going to spend something more in the Third Five Year Plan.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, you have seen how the Prime Minister has dealt with this question and how the Health Minister is dealing with it. I suggest that such questions should be dealt with a little more seriously and with less frivolity.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The Prime Minister just now stated that there is an attempt to supply drinking water to every village. In that case there are villages where there is no drinking water at all and water has to be brought from a distance of 15 to 20 miles. While steps are taken to....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question related to Union Territories. The Prime Minister replied that we should try to provide drinking water to every village. 'Every village' includes villages in the Union Territories and they are making attempts to provide drinking water to every village in the Union Territories.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir, it will be done in due course.

*127 to *129. [The questioner (Shri Niranjan Singh) was absent. For answers, vide cols. 832-33 infra.]

SETTING UP OF MORE MECHANISED FARMS

*130. { SHRI JASWANT SINGH†:
SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up more mechanised farms on the lines of the Suratgarh Farm;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have been approached in this connection and what is their response; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop a buffalo breeding farm and a cow breeding farm?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA):

(a) Yes, provided suitable sites are available.

(b) State Governments were asked to indicate the availability of contiguous blocks of land of 10,000 to 30,000 acres answering certain requirements. The Governments of Rajasthan, Bombay, Andhra, Punjab, Mysore, Orissa and Bihar have indicated the availability of such blocks. The suitability of these sites is under consideration of the committee appointed in this connection.

(c) Yes.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: As we know, the machinery for the Suratgarh Farm was supplied by the Soviet Union. Do we take it that in regard

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jaswant Singh.