

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Tourism have formed a Task Force headed by Secretary (Health) and senior officials of the concerned Ministries and experts in the medical field, with view to promoting India as a Health destination for persons across the globe so as to gainfully utilize the health care expertise and infrastructure available in the country. It has also been decided to promote and market India as a Healthcare destination through collaterals/print/electronic and internet media under the Ministry of Tourism's "Incredible India Campaign."

Grant to states for water-shed programmes

2336. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view of the worsening water crisis, the Centre has decided to focus on availability, sustainability and quality of drinking water;

(b) whether worried over depleting ground water level the Government has also decided to take up water-shed programmes;

(c) if so, what are details of programmes that are being undertaken and whether Centre would double grant to Rs. 208 crores this year to various States for augmenting drinking water supply;

(d) what is total amount earmarked for Andhra Pradesh and others; and

(e) by when this scheme is likely to be fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Government has given due emphasis to the drinking water issues. The National Water Policy assigns highest allocation priority to Drinking Water in planning and operation of systems.

(b) and (c) In view of the depleting ground water level in certain areas, Government has taken up various schemes viz. Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting. Programmes such as

National Water-shed Development Projects in Rain-fed Areas, Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas also help in ground water recharge to some extent.

Central Government assists the State Governments in implementation of rural drinking water supply schemes by providing technical and financial assistance through the centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) of Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development. The budget outlay for ARWSP has been increased from Rs. 2900 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 4050 crore in 2005-06.

(d) and (e) The following allocations have been made by the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development for Andhra Pradesh for the year 2005-06 under various components of ARWSP.

	(Rs. in crore)	
	Allocation	Release
ARWSP (NORMAL)	209.02	104.51
ARWSP (DDP)	1.30	0.65
ARWSP (SWAJAL DHARA)	30.45	Nil

In addition, Rs. 4.75 crore were released to Andhra Pradesh under 5% Calamity Relief component of ARWSP to meet the drought situation during the current year.

Completion of river linking projects in Tamil Nadu

2337. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made with regard to rivers linking project, till date in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the amount spent on the project till date; and

(c) by when, the entire work to linking of rivers is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The three