

(c) whether it is not desirable on part of Government to revise the pension of employees under NPS in view of the ever-present inflationary trends; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANABH MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Dearness relief is available to Government employees who are covered under the defined benefit pension system. However, the Government took a decision in August, 2003 to introduce a defined contribution based pension system called the 'New Pension System' (NPS) for all employees of the Central Government with effect from 1-4-2004, except the armed forces. The 'NPS replaced the then existing defined benefit pension system.

The NPS is conceptually a different pension system from the defined benefit pension system. While the employees covered by the defined benefit pension system get dearness relief as part of the pension, the employees covered under the NPS get the pension based on the accumulations over their working life out of the contributions of the employees and the Government to the NPS. This has been designed in line with best international practices to achieve the requirements of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

Drinking water facilities for villages

*399.DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages in the country, as on date, do not have drinking water facilities;

(b) what was the financial outlay provided by the Planning Commission in the Eleventh Five Year Plan and how much of that amount has been actually spent; and

(c) how many villages have been provided with the drinking water facilities during the first four years of the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As on 1.4.2011, as reported by the States, in the on-line Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, against a total of 16,64,186 habitations in the rural areas of the country, 11,86,760 habitations have been fully covered and 4,77,426 habitations have been partially covered

with adequate and safe drinking water supply. All uncovered habitations identified for coverage at the inception of Bharat Nirman have been covered with drinking water facilities.

(b) The financial outlay for rural water supply in the Eleventh Five Year Plan was Rs.39,490 crore. However, the actual amount made available by the Planning Commission for rural water supply in the XIth Plan period is Rs.40,150 crore. Expenditure at the Central level is principally in terms of releases to the States. Out of the Rs. 30,800 crore allocated from 2007-08 till 2010-11, Rs. 30,718.01 crore has been spent. For 2011-12, Rs. 9,350 crore has been allocated and till 25.8.2011, Rs. 1,093.85 crore has been released to the States.

(c) During the first four years of the 11th Five Year Plan, against a target of coverage of 6,53,798 habitations, the States have been able to cover 5,29,967 rural habitations with provision of adequate and safe drinking water supply.

Reforms in the implementation of schemes for rural upliftment

*400.PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has been carrying out reforms in the implementation of various schemes devised for rural upliftment; and

(b) if so, the details of basic reforms to be undertaken in the foreseeable future?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation are implementing through the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations the major rural development programmes namely, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY)/National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

On the basis of reviews, suggestions by implementation agencies, field visits, discussions and evaluation studies reforms/modifications are introduced in various programmes by the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation from time to time.