

sanctioned of which 12,903 are taken up and 8,967 are completed. Out of a cost of Rs. 246.85 crore for which these works were taken up, so far Rs.125.16 crore have been utilized.

Achievement of targets under NRDWP

1404. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA:

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM:

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and whether Government has achieved those aims objectives;

(b) the number of habitations targeted to be covered under NRDWP during Bharat Nirman Phase-I and the number of them actually covered, so far;

(c) whether Government has ascertained the drawbacks in achieving the targets;

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to address them to achieve the targets;

(e) whether Government has formulated any programme to provide piped water supply to every household in rural areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The aims and objective of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) is to provide every rural person with adequate safe water for drinking, cooking and other basic domestic needs on a sustainable basis with a minimum water quality standard which should be conveniently assessible at all time in all situations. Achieving this aims and objective is a continuous process.

(b) During Bharat Nirman Phase-I, as on 1.4.2005, it was envisaged to cover 55,067 uncovered, 3,31,604 slipped back and 2,16,968 quality affected habitations with adequate water supply. Against this as reported by the States on 22.3.2012 on the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of this Ministry, 55,067 uncovered, 3,58,362 slipped back/partially covered and 1,25,995 quality affected habitations have been covered. Newly identified slipped-back/partially covered habitations have also been covered in this period. All identified uncovered habitations have been reported as covered.

(c) and (d) The reasons for not fully achieving the targets of coverage of quality affected habitations include high capital costs of large multi-village schemes to bring water from distant safe sources, time taken for planning, designing, sanctioning, procuring, execution and commissioning of such schemes, slipping back of habitations to partially covered status due to drying up of drinking water sources; lowering of ground water table; drinking water sources becoming contaminated due to natural and man-made causes; water supply systems outliving

their life; system working below rated capacities; poor operation and management of systems; increase in population and emergence of new habitations, procurement issues, etc

In order to achieve the target under NRDWP, the State Governments are vested with powers to plan, execute and implement drinking water supply schemes. The Central Government provides financial and technical assistance to the State to supplement their efforts to provide drinking water to the rural areas. They have to adopt improved Operation and Maintenance methods for better working of the rural water supply schemes and to control the leakages. Further, a separate Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Component with 3% of NRDWP allocation has been created to improve water quality testing. States have been given flexibility to cover water quality habitations from the funds provided under coverage, etc. The Government of India has given priority for coverage of Scheduled Caste and scheduled Tribe concentrated habitations. There is a robust web-based monitoring mechanism at the central level to monitor the implementation of water supply schemes in the States.

(e) and (f) During the 12th Five Year Plan period, it is proposed to give emphasis on piped water supply in the rural habitations.

Impact of mobile phone tower radiation on birds and insects

1405. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has commissioned any study to understand the impact of mobile phone tower radiation on birds and insects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons that prompted the commissioning of the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had constituted an 'Expert Committee to study the possible impacts of communication towers on wildlife including Birds and Bees' on 30th August 2010 under the chairmanship of Dr Asad Rahmani, Director, Bombay Natural History Society.

(c) On 11th August, 2010, Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri M. Anandan had raised a Starred Question No. 244 regarding 'III effects of Mobile Towers on Birds' wherein Hon'ble Member wanted to know whether any studies have been conducted on the ill effects of mobile towers on birds and bees and also whether the Government has set up any committee to look into the issue. The Ministry of Environment and Forests had, therefore, constituted the Expert Committee to study the possible impacts of communication towers on wildlife including Birds and Bees.