(c) to (e) An expert committee constituted by Government of Punjab including a representative of the Ministry, met on 24.07.2012 to discuss technological interventions for Uranium removal in drinking water. As per available information, Coagulation/filtration at high pH, Lime softening, Anion exchange, Reverse osmosis, Membrane filtration and natural clinoptilolite zeolite are effective in Uranium removal from drinking water sources.

The Ministry provides financial and technical assistance under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to supplement the efforts of the States in providing safe drinking water, including treatment units to remove uranium from drinking water. Punjab has been allocated Rs.80.20 crore in 2012-13 of which Rs. 43.60 crore has been released so far.

Minister of Rural Development and Drinking Water and Sanitation laid the foundation stone for a new Water Quality Testing Laboratory for testing of Uranium and heavy metals contamination being set up by Government of Punjab with assistance from the Ministry.

Presence of pesticides in water

501. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that water samples tested from some parts of the country contain moderately high levels of pesticides, some of them residues of long banned pesticides like DDT;

(b) whether a study of the Ganga Basin showed that the addrin group of pesticides is specific to the Bihar region;

(c) if not, whether a thorough check on water contamination is regularly undertaken;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the future action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) It has been reported that a recent study conducted by IIT,

Delhi revealed that the groundwater in the Palla-Burari region near Delhi contain moderately high levels of pesticides; some of them are residues of long-banned pesticides, such as DDT. The same team also conducted a larger study on the entire Ganga basin covering Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The results showed that different types of organochloride pesticides predominate in different regions depending upon land use pattern. HCH, a bi-product of insecticide Lidane, was detected mostly in the mountainous stretch of Uttarakhand. The water in Uttar Pradesh contained more of Endosulfan residues, while the Bihar region contained more of the Aldrin group of pesticides.

As per studies conducted by CGWB in Oct-Nov' 2002, groundwater samples in 5 villages in Andhra Pradesh revealed Pesticide Multiple Residue above permissible limits. As reported by Indian Agricultural Research Institute, surface and ground water sources in some villages of Thiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu have revealed pesticides in excess of permissible limits.

Testing of pesticides in water requires precision instrumentation like Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectophotometery (GC-MS), High Pressure Liquid Chromatography (HLC) and also skilled manpower. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to provide safe drinking water in the rural areas of the country, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under NRDWP, upto 3% of funds provided to the States, on 100% central share basis, can be used exclusively for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance which *inter-alia* includes setting up new/ upgradation of existing drinking water quality testing laboratories for analysis of specific parameters of local concern, including pesticides, as listed in the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Drinking Water Specification, IS-10500.

Implementation of TSC

502. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than half of the rural population does not have access to basic sanitation facilities even after six decades of planned development;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to formulate new initiatives to improve the pace of implementation of Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)?