

Supply of safe drinking water to every households

955. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether twenty per cent of Indian households have to travel more than half a kilometre for drinking water;

(b) whether over twenty per cent of Indians get their water from unsafe sources including untreated sources for tap-users and uncovered wells;

(c) whether it is also a fact that less than five per cent of households get their drinking water from a tap; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to supply safe drinking water to every household in rural India?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. As per Census 2011, 22.10% of rural households have to travel more than half a kilometer for fetching drinking water in rural areas while 8.1% of the urban households have to fetch drinking water from a distance of more than 100 metres.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per Census 2011, 24.4% of households access drinking water from sources that include untreated water from taps, uncovered wells and other sources.

(c) No, Sir. As per Census 2011, 30.8% of the rural households and 70.6% of urban households get their drinking water from taps.

(d) The Government of India administers the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) under which the financial and technical assistance is provided to States to supplement their efforts to provide adequate safe drinking water to the rural population. A budgetary allocation of Rs. 10,500 crores has been provided for NRDWP in 2012-13. Under NRDWP, the Government of India has given priority to cover partially covered habitations and quality affected habitations with safe drinking water. A further 5% of NRDWP allocation is also earmarked for allocation to those States facing problems of chemical contamination in drinking water or with Japanese Encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome affected high priority districts. In the Twelfth Five Year Plan period, the focus shall be on piped water supply, to promote piped water supply in rural areas. The Government of India is taking steps to cover all rural habitations and households with safe and adequate drinking water supply on a continuous basis.

Drinking water crisis in Jaintia Hills

956. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya is facing an acute drinking water crisis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether major rivers in the area have been declared unfit for use by humans due to unscientific mining; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to curb mining in that area and its effects on water pollution?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As reported by the State Government of Meghalaya, sources of some drinking water supply schemes have had to be shifted due to contamination. Some major rivers in the area have been found to be unfit for human use.

(d) The State Government has reported taking up the following steps to curb mining in the area and its effect on water pollution:—

- (i) Awareness programmes have been conducted to educate mine owners/miners and mine dependent families on ill effects of unscientific mining and storage of coal.
- (ii) In order to address the issue of mining in Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya and its effect on water pollution, the State has framed a State Mineral Policy.
- (iii) Government have also entered into special arrangements with Village Durbars to protect the sources in order to ensure longevity of drinking water sources.

Beneficiaries of TSC

957. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of projects being run under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra; and
- (b) the number of persons benefited from this project during each of the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) 607 projects including 71 of Uttar Pradesh and 33 of Maharashtra are being run under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) earlier known as Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

(b) The number of Individual Household Latrines constructed during each of the last two years, State-wise is given in Statement.