

Bio-digester toilets in rural India

1760. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Defence Research and Development Organisation proposes to come forward to develop bio-digester toilets in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of action plan to provide such toilets in all the girls schools in the rural areas to control drop-outs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for implementation of bio-digester/bio-tank based eco-friendly toilets developed by DRDO, in Gram Panchayats.

- (c) No proposal has been submitted by DRDO or by State Governments for construction of such toilets in all the girls schools in the rural areas.

Shortage of drinking water

†1761. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that even after 65 years of independence there is a huge shortage of safe drinking water in rural areas;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the water being supplied in many cities including Delhi is not safe for drinking and is injurious to health; and
- (c) if so, whether Government has made any scheme for supplying safe drinking tap water in the entire country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) No, Sir. As per the data entered by the States on the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, the coverage of rural habitations with adequate safe drinking water supply as on 1.4.2012 is given in Statement (*See below*).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.