

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask the question.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: It should be our target to get rid of arsenic-contaminated drinking water in our State. My question is whether the Government has taken any steps to remove this contamination? We are suffering a lot because of contaminated drinking water.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Let us quickly have an answer.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, in Assam, about 1,200 habitations have been identified as arsenic contaminated and about Rs. 30 crores have been specially allocated under the NREWP for Assam alone for dealing with the arsenic contamination problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any other question.

श्री राम कृपाल यादव : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने कहा कि केन्द्र के अलावा राज्यों का भी दायित्व बनता है कि शुद्ध पेयजल मुहैया कराया जाए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

State Advised Price of sugarcane

*323. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugarcane farmers are agitated over the demand to raise the State Advised Price (SAP) of sugarcane to Rs. 300 per quintal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken to settle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD, AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Central Government fixes the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane, a benchmark guaranteed price of sugarcane, below which no sugar mill can purchase sugarcane from cane growers. However, State Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand are announcing State Advised Price (SAP), which is generally higher than FRP fixed by the Government of India. Only the State Government of Tamil Nadu has informed that there is an agitation in the State by sugarcane farmers over the State Government's decision to fix the SAP at Rs 235 per quintal and they are demanding to increase it to Rs. 300 per quintal.

Remedial measures, if any, in the matters relating to SAP are to be taken by the State Government concerned.

Appointment of Assistant Solicitor Generals

†*324. CHAUDHARY MUNABBAR SALEEM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Assistant Solicitor Generals who have been appointed by the previous Minister of Law and Justice;

(b) the number of appointments out of the above which have been validated and invalidated by the present Minister; and

(c) if invalidated, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The previous Minister for Law and Justice had approved the extension of the term of engagement of seventeen Assistant Solicitors General for two years and that of seven Assistant Solicitors General until further orders. He had also approved fresh engagement of four Assistant Solicitors General.

(b) No change has been made so far in the engagement of Assistant Solicitors General approved by the previous Minister.

(c) Question does not arise.

Vacancies in AIR

*325. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various categories of vacancies in All India Radio;

(b) whether it is a fact that shortage of staff has affected the Urdu services and programmes the most;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to fill up the vacancies speedily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) The vacancies in different categories of posts in All India Radio (AIR) as on 01.01.2012 are as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.