

Group (A)	1314
Group (B)	1596
Group (C)	3618
Group (D)	1934
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TOTAL:	8462
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(b) and (c) The non-availability of language experts on the permanent rolls has some effect on the quality of Urdu programmes though services are being managed through engagement of retired personnel and through outsourcing. The duration of broadcast of Urdu services and programmes on AIR was only half an hour on 24th October, 1965 but has since been increased to 24 hours. The shortage of staff has arisen primarily because very little fresh recruitment has taken place since the formation of Prasar Bharati in 1997.

(d) The vacancies falling under promotional quota are being filled up by holding meetings of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) periodically which is a continuous process. Under the Direct Recruitment quota, Government has recently granted approval to Prasar Bharati for filling up 1150 posts. Government has also recently granted approval for undertaking recruitment against Group B and C posts through the Staff Selection Commission as a one-time special dispensation, so as to enable filling up of the critical posts expeditiously.

#### **Shortage of drinking water in North Eastern States**

\*326. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the districts in the North Eastern States are facing acute shortage of drinking water due to arsenic and fluoride contamination in ground water, especially in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government has received proposals from these States seeking financial assistance to provide safe drinking water facility;

(d) if so, the details of funds released, so far; and

(e) if no funds have been released the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As reported by the States on the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, as on 01.04.2012, in the 8 North Eastern States (*viz.* Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura), out of the 1,17,651 rural habitations in 89 districts, there are 1030 rural habitations in 19 districts with drinking water sources contaminated with excess arsenic and 71 rural habitations in 2 districts with drinking water sources contaminated with excess fluoride, all in the State of Assam, that are yet to be covered with provision of safe drinking water. No other North Eastern State has reported contamination with excess arsenic and fluoride in drinking water sources. District-wise details of the habitations affected by excess arsenic and fluoride contamination in drinking water sources in the North Eastern States are at given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India, through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), provides technical and financial assistance to the States to supplement their efforts in providing adequate and safe drinking water supply to the rural areas. States submit Annual Action Plans with broad outline of habitations, including quality affected habitations, to be covered and other activities under NRDWP. These are finalized after discussions with this Ministry and funds allocated as per approved criteria and released to the States. Thereafter, States are vested with powers to select design, approve, execute and monitor drinking water supply facilities for providing safe drinking water to their rural populace. No project proposals are received under NRDWP in this Ministry.

(d) and (e) Under NRDWP, 10% of the total allocation is earmarked for North Eastern States. Upto 67% of the funds allocated and released under NRDWP can be utilised for providing safe drinking water facilities to habitations affected with chemical contamination, including arsenic and fluoride contamination. In addition, 5 % of NRDWP funds have been earmarked for Water Quality of which 75% is allocated to States to cover habitations with chemical contamination, including arsenic and fluoride, in drinking water sources. During the current year 2012-13, Rs. 452.32 crore has been released under NRDWP and Rs. 0.85 crore under the earmarked Water Quality Fund upto 10.12.2012 to the 8 North Eastern States. Details are given in the Statement-II.

***Statement-I***

*District-wise details of arsenic and fluoride affected habitations in North Eastern States*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of the District	Number of fluoride affected habitations	Number of arsenic affected habitations
1.	Assam	Baksha	0	11
2.	Assam	Barpeta	0	59
3.	Assam	Bongaigaon	0	46
4.	Assam	Cachar	0	6
5.	Assam	Darrang	0	37
6.	Assam	Dhemaji	0	14
7.	Assam	Dhubri	0	45
8.	Assam	Goalpara	0	11
9.	Assam	Golaghat	0	150
10.	Assam	Hailakandi	0	2
11.	Assam	Jorhat	1	448
12.	Assam	Karimganj	0	5
13.	Assam	Kokrajhar	0	1
14.	Assam	Lakhimpur	0	2
15.	Assam	Marigaon	0	22
16.	Assam	Nagaon	70	1
17.	Assam	Nalbari	0	93
18.	Assam	Sibsagar	0	53
19.	Assam	Sonitpur	0	24
TOTAL:			71	1030

**Statement-II**

*Details of the NRDWP fund allocated and released to North Eastern States in 2012-13 upto 10.12.2012*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2012-13		5% water quality fund	
		Allocation**	Release	Allocation	Release
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	143.51	78.82	0	0
2.	Assam	481.61	225.92	29.35	0.80
3.	Manipur	63.72	27.33	0	0
4.	Meghalaya	73.35	33.61	0.05	0
5.	Mizoram	41.66	19.26	0	0
6.	Nagaland	60.31	28.35	0.11	0.05
7.	Sikkim	18.03	8.38	0	0
8.	Tripura	62.86	30.65	1.42	0
TOTAL:		945	452.32	30.93	0.85

\*\*Allocation for Incentive Fund is yet to be made.

**Rising prices of wheat**

†\*327. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- whether Government has framed any policy to check the rising prices of wheat;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether Government has formulated any concrete policy to take action against those hoarding the stocks illegally; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD, AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Government has initiated several measures to contain the price rise of wheat. These measures include allocation of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.