

This Ministry has released a total of Rs. 814.14 corer in 2012-13 under NRDWP to the State. Together with an opening balance, as on 1/4/2012, of Rs. 292.05 crore, the State had Rs. 1106.19 crore available with it under NRDWP In 2012-13, to tackle the drinking water supply situation in the affected areas of the state. State has reported spending Rs. 572.06 crore during 2012-13 leaving a balance of Rs. 534.13 crore for utilisation in 2013-14.

(d) to (f) Water being a State subject, planning for ensuring equitable distribution of water will have to done by the State Government.

Contaminated drinking water in Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh

4228. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nalgonda district in Andhra Pradesh has the highest concentration of people affected with fluorosis and arsenic;

(b) if so, what special efforts the Ministry is making to bring this district out of the clutches of contaminated water;

(c) how it is supplementing the efforts of the State Government in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that State Government had an unspent balance of Rs. 300 crore under NRDWP as on 31 March, 2012; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) As reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, there were 690 fluoride affected habitations in Nalgonda district as on 1.4.2004. Most of these fluoride affected habitations have been provided with potable drinking water supply from safe surface water sources. As reported by the State on the online Integrated Management Information System of the Ministry, as on 1.4.2012, there were 61 fluoride affected habitations in Nalgonda district that are yet to be provided with safe drinking water facility. The present population at risk (as on 1.4.2012) due to excess fluoride contamination in

one or more drinking water sources in these 61 habitations in Nalgonda district is 22,823. Arsenic contamination in drinking water sources has not been reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in Nalgonda district.

(b) to (d) Rural drinking water is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments with technical and financial assistance for provision of safe drinking in the rural areas of the country under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under NRDWP, upto 67 % of the funds allocated can be utilized by the State for provision of safe drinking water facilities to rural habitations in the county. In addition, 5 % of NRDWP funds have been earmarked for Water Quality under which 75 % funds is allocated to States to cover habitations with chemical contamination including arsenic and fluoride, in drinking water sources. State Governments are empowered to plan, design, sanction, implement, operate and maintain rural drinking water supply projects. As a part of Annual Action Plan for the year 2013-14, the State Government has already been advised to approve projects and cover all fluoride affected habitations with safe drinking water facility. The State Government has also reported that various grants under Twelfth Finance Commission, Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are also being utilized to provide safe drinking water in fluoride affected habitations in addition to NRDWP funds.

In 2012-13, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation released Rs. 485.14 crore under NRDWP. Together with an Opening Balance of Rs. 301.30 crore as Central share on 1.4.2012, the State had Rs. 786.44 crore available for provision of safe drinking water under NRDWP. Of this, the State utilized Rs. 98.21 crore in Nalgonda district as per information reported on IMIS.

(e) As reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the reasons for unspent balance are :

- (i) Major water supply projects are taken up for providing safe drinking water supply in fluoride affected habitations, which involve detailed investigation, survey, preparation of Detailed Project Report and getting permissions from other departments like Forests, Railways, National

Highways Authority of India and Roads and Buildings that take time to complete.

- (ii) Works taken up under 10% NRDWP-Sustainability grants for ensuring source sustainability of drinking water supply projects require scientific investigations and involvement of reputed organizations like National Geophysical Research Institute, National Remote Sensing Centre, Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Department which also take more time.

Status of RGNRDWM

4229. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajiv Gandhi National Rural Drinking Water Mission (RGNRDWM) aims at ensuring drinking water supply for all households in rural areas;

(b) if so, in what manner the Mission has been successful in achieving its aims and objectives; and

(c) the status of Mission's implementation and achievements so far in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Yes Sir. The rural water supply programme in the country initially launched as the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission is now being implemented as the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) which is a centrally sponsored scheme for providing financial and technical assistance to the States to supplement their efforts to provide drinking water facilities in rural areas.

(b) Drinking water supply is one of the components of Bharat Nirman launched by the Government of India in 2005-06 to give impetus to provision of basic infrastructure in rural areas. The financial outlay for Rural Drinking Water Supply during the Bharat Nirman period increased considerably from Rs. 4098 crore in 2005-06 to Rs. 11,000 crore in 2013-14.