

- (a) whether Indian companies are allowed to pay in foreign exchange for lobbying in foreign countries;
- (b) whether there is any limit for such payments;
- (c) the total amount of foreign exchange used by Indian companies for lobbying; and
- (d) the names of Indian companies that have used foreign exchange for lobbying in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (d) Lobbying in foreign countries is regulated by the laws of the country concerned. In the Companies Act, 1956 there is no provision relating to lobbying and Indian companies are not required under the Companies Act to make disclosures concerning this subject.

Safe drinking water

1447. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages and hamlets in Assam which are not covered under the safe drinking water supply;
- (b) whether Government has received any detailed estimate from Assam Government regarding the total amount required by the State to supply safe drinking water for villages and hamlets; and
- (c) if so, the details of funds sanctioned and utilised during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation maintains data regarding coverage of drinking water supply, habitation wise. As reported by Assam on the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 5.3.2013, out of the total 86,976 rural habitations in the State, 51131 habitations are fully covered, 21,635 are partially covered and 14,210 are water quality affected habitations.

(b) and (c) Funds are allocated to States under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) as per approved criteria. The State Governments, in

consultation with the Ministry, prepare Annual Action Plans containing details of the number of drinking water supply schemes and habitations to be covered by them and other activities under the programme, to supply habitations with safe and adequate drinking water supply on a sustainable basis.

The details of the funds allocated, released and utilized by the State of Assam during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocation	Release	Expenditure
2009-10	301.60	323.50	269.34
2010-11	449.64	487.48	480.55
2011-12	435.58	522.44	468.61

Achievement of MDG targets for drinking water and sanitation

1448. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) how far India is successful in meeting the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) targets under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) towards drinking water and sanitation; and

(b) the steps taken by the Ministry to alleviate the disparity between drinking water facilities provided to urban and rural population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) As per targets of Millennium Development Goals, the proportion of population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation as in 1990 is to be halved by 2015. As per the UNICEF-WHO Joint Monitoring Report 2010 the proportion of rural population without sustainable access to safe drinking water in 1990 in India was 34%, while the percentage in 2008 was 16%. Thus the MDG goal related to rural drinking water supply has already been achieved.

MDG targets in respect of Rural Sanitation is 54.74% sanitation coverage by 2015. As per the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) Report, the sanitation coverage in rural areas of the country is 33% approximately as of the year 2010.