

**Contaminated ground water**

2225. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a study by the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR), Lucknow, has found that the ground water in the vicinity of the Union Carbide's pesticide plant in Bhopal is replete with contaminants;

(b) if so, the measures Government has taken, so far, to provide safe drinking water to the population living in and around the area; and

(c) whether Government has undertaken any medical survey of the population living in and around the plant site to detect any adverse effect of water contamination on their health and to counter the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) As per information received from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), it has commissioned a study through Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR), Lucknow for assessment of groundwater quality in and around the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) plant to revalidate the observations in the June 2010 report of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur on groundwater and soil quality. The analysis report of 27 samples collected from around the UCIL premises indicates that the value of chloride and nitrate values exceeded the respective guideline values (IS 10500-2004) in 4 and 15 samples respectively. Levels of heavy metals like Nickel, Lead, Cadmium had also exceeded the guideline values in some water samples.

(b) As per report received from Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, a sum of Rs 14.18 crore was provided under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to Government of Madhya Pradesh in April 2006 for supply of piped drinking water from Kolar reservoir to 14 localities around UCIL plant site at Bhopal. In July, 2010, Government of India has further released its 75% share of a total outlay of Rs 50 crore for providing safe drinking water to the Bhopal gas victims as part of a new plan of action to Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) As per information received from the Indian Council of Medical Research, the Department of Community Medicine, Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal

under Government of Madhya Pradesh has undertaken a survey of the population living in and around the plant site in a form of "Epidemiological study" - an Epidemiological study of Symptomatic Morbidities living around solar evaporation ponds and behind Union Carbide factory, Bhopal in the year 2007-08.

**Sanitation and drinking water projects in NER**

2226. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects submitted by the State Governments of North Eastern Region (NER) during the last three years regarding sanitation and drinking water;

(b) the details of projects approved and the assistance provided, year-wise and district-wise; and

(c) the details of projects not approved or still under consideration and the reasons for rejection and delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Drinking water supply is a State subject. The Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to supplement their efforts to provide adequate safe drinking water to the rural population. Under the NRDWP, the State Governments are vested with the powers to plan, approve and implement drinking water supply schemes. The State Governments, in consultation with the Ministry, prepare Annual Action Plans each year, to implement rural water supply schemes to cover partially covered and quality affected habitations and for other activities. Drinking water supply projects prepared thereafter by the States are examined and sanctioned at the state level by the State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee (SLSSC). Rural drinking water supply projects are not submitted by the States to this Ministry.

As regards, Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), totally 85 district projects have been sanctioned in 8 North Eastern States. However, during the last 3 years, only 2 district projects of Nagaland *i.e.* Kiphire & Longleng have been submitted and approved by Government of India.