

Impact of inadequate sanitation on malnutrition

717. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether lack of sanitary facilities are linked to malnutrition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what efforts the Ministry is making to use SHGs to promote and highlight nutritional importance and interventions;
- (d) whether there is any special plan in the Twelfth Five Year Plan for this purpose; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Individual Health and hygiene is largely dependent on adequate availability of proper sanitation. There is, therefore, a relationship between sanitation and health. Improper disposal of human excreta, improper environmental sanitation and lack of personal and food hygiene have been major causes of many diseases such as dysentery, schistosomiasis, Japanese encephalitis, malaria, dengue and trachoma. Suffering from diseases is one of the reasons for malnutrition.

(c) Under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, SHGs are being engaged for opening and operating Production Centers/Rural Sanitary Marts so that cost effective affordable sanitary materials at local level could be produced and materials, services and guidance needed for constructing different types of latrines and other sanitary facilities for a clean environment could be made available.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Rural housing knowledge network

718. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had launched Rural Housing Knowledge Network (RHKN) scheme for showing information on rural housing;

(b) if so, the number of rural people who took benefit of the above scheme *vis-à-vis* the expenditure thereon during the last three years along with the reasons for failure of RHKN in yielding desired results;

(c) whether Government proposes to conduct interactive sessions between housing practitioners and IAY home owners;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to reach at the door steps of rural people to advise them on common practical solutions to the bottlenecks in constructing and maintaining their houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A knowledge network has been launched in July, 2012 for building an updatable repository of knowledge in the rural housing sector in collaboration with IIT, Delhi. A large number of partners countrywide have joined the Rural Housing Knowledge Network (RHKN). These partners have disseminated the new knowledge on cost-effective, safe and sustainable RH solutions that they have gained through this network to RH beneficiaries. The RHKN has conducted exhaustive consultation with Government, Non-Government institutions and experts and beneficiaries of the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Rajasthan. A multi-lingual portal providing information in two formats — one for IT savvy users and one for lay users — has been developed. The total budget requirement for creation of this network is Rs. 4,16,59,528. For the first year the requirement is for Rs. 1,09,36,488/-, Rs. 1,52,06,305 for second year and Rs. 1,55,16,735 for third year.

(c) and (d) The RHKN Project has initiated an Interactive Session Series by name: “Grameen Awas — Sawaal Jawaabaur Samvaad” with IAY beneficiaries. Sessions have been conducted in association with District and Local Administration in the districts of Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Samastipur and Supaul, Bihar, Rajnandgaon and Raipur, Chhattisgarh, West Tripura, Tripura.

(e) In the context of rural housing, for the rural home owner, very often the mason is the adviser, architect, engineer and builder all rolled into one. RHKN has initiated a process of mason outreach and knowledge upgradation to ensure quality construction using both conventional and alternate technologies. RHKN’s approach

is to create master masons who would then act as innovators and catalysts among their community. This is probably the most efficient way to ensure quality and safety in construction of Rural Houses.

Funds under flagship programmes

719. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released under different flagship programmes to Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh from 2009 to till 2013 as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Governments could not utilise the funds released by Government; and

(c) the details of implementation of Government's flagship programmes in these four States during last four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The flagship programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development are Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)/National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). The funds released under flagship programmes to Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh from 2009 to till 2013 as on date is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The funds are utilized by the District Rural Development Agency (DRDAs)/ Zila Parishads (ZPs)/Implementing Agencies as per the programme guidelines and the unspent funds are carry forward to the next financial year for continuity of the projects/schemes.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation and impact of the programme including utilization of funds through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee, Area Officer's Scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at the State/District Level, and National Level Monitors. Besides, the State Governments have been advised to adopt five pronged strategy *i.e.* (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) transparency, (iii) people's partnership, (iv) accountability, social audit and (v) strict vigilance and monitoring at all levels to improve the implementation process.