

Contaminated drinking water in Kerala

641. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala has reported the highest chemical/bacterial contaminated drinking water in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) which are the other States in the country with high levels of contaminated drinking water;

(d) whether Government has failed to prevent widening of the gap between the demand and the supply of water due to rapid urbanization, increased economic activity, population explosion and changes in land use pattern;

(e) whether Government has any plans to develop an integrated water management system and augmentation of existing water resources; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As on 1.4.2013, Kerala State has not reported the highest number of habitations in the country with chemical contamination in rural drinking water sources. As reported by the Kerala State into the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, as on 01.04.2013, 893 habitations have been reported with chemical contamination in one or more rural drinking water sources, which *inter-alia* include 106 fluoride affected habitations, 564 iron affected habitations, 167 salinity affected habitations and 56 nitrate affected habitations. However, as reported into IMIS, for the year 2012-13, Kerala is one of the States having high bacterial contaminated sources.

(c) Other States that have reported high levels of chemical contamination in terms of number of habitations wherein one or more sources contaminated with excess arsenic, fluoride, iron, salinity or nitrate include Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. In remaining States, only few or no water quality affected habitations have been reported as on 1.4.2013. Other high

bacterial contaminated sources were reported by Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and West Bengal during the year 2012-13.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India informed that several steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management in order to ensure sustainability of water resources are taken up by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water, adoption of better irrigation practices, etc. Further, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments through technical and financial assistance.

Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India has launched the National Water Mission with the objective of conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution across and within States through integrated water resources development and management.

**Arsenic and fluoride-affected habitations in
Andhra Pradesh**

642. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of arsenic and fluoride-affected rural habitations in Andhra Pradesh out of the total 14,000 habitations;

(b) in how many habitations water purification plants have been set up;

(c) whether it is a fact that majority of habitations not have purification plants;

(d) how NRDWP helping in setting up of such plants; and

(e) what special emphasis the Ministry has made to deal with arsenic and fluoride issues in the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) As reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh a total of 14,794 quality affected rural habitations exist in the State, of which, as on 1.4.2013, 3549 water quality affected habitations are yet to be provided with safe drinking water facility and out of these, 2179 habitations are fluoride affected. The State has not reported any arsenic affected habitations.