

**Water contamination due to septic tanks**

646. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that septic tanks are a major source of contamination of drinking water sources;
- (b) what are the rules, guidelines, etc. for regulating the use of septic tanks in the country;
- (c) whether each habitation is required to have access to technology for safe disposal from septic tanks; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Improperly designed septic tanks and its poor maintenance are likely to contaminate nearby drinking water sources bacteriologically.

(b) to (d) As intimated by the Ministry of Urban Development, the design of septic tanks has been mentioned in Chapter 21 of the Manual of Sewerage and Sewage Treatment, 1993. Ministry of Urban Development has also published Advisory Note on Septage Management in January, 2013 wherein guidelines for treatment and disposal of septic tank sludge is elaborated. Under the centrally sponsored Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation provides financial support for construction of Individual household toilets with sanitary latrine. There are several technological options available including septic tank as per the hydro-geological conditions of the areas and socio-cultural behaviour of people. Twin pit toilet is mostly preferred in rural areas. The pit pour flush water seal toilet has many advantages and is suitable for rural areas.

**CAG findings on NRDWP**

†647. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.