

Drinking water and sanitation targets

1730. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set any targets in regard to providing drinking water and sanitation facilities in villages and tribal areas of the country during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the expenditure likely to be incurred and the funds earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) During the Twelfth Five Year Plan period (2012-17) the Ministry aims to provide at least 50% of rural households with piped water supply with at least 35% of rural households with a house connection. The targets for coverage of habitations in the States including those in tribal areas is decided annually at the beginning of each financial year in consultation with the Ministry. As per Census 2011, only 32.67% rural households are having access to latrines. To eliminate the practice of open defecation and to promote the use of toilets in rural areas including villages and tribal areas of country, Government of India under Nirmal -Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) has set the goal to achieve the vision of Nirmal Bharat by 2022 with all Gram Panchayats in the country attaining 'Nirmal' status. As per 12th plan objectives of NBA, 50% of all the Gram Panchayats are to become Nirmal Grams by 2017, which implies open defecation free (ODF) Gram Panchayats having proper arrangement for Solid and Liquid waste Management (SLWM).

(c) During the 12th Five Year Plan period (2012-17) an outlay of Rs. 68,768 crores has been provided for National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP).

Since 2011- 12, at the national level, 10% of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) budget is earmarked for Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). States are required to utilize allocation under TSP for coverage of tribal concentrated habitations. For 12th Plan, an outlay of Rs. 37,159 crore has been allocated for Rural Sanitation.

Nodal agency for gas hydrate exploration

1731. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) has been mandated as the nodal agency responsible for implementation of the scientific aspects of the study related to gas hydrate exploration in the country;

(b) if so, how it is different from the consortium named National Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) constituted in 1997 under Directorate of Hydrocarbons, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as a nodal head for research and exploration of gas hydrates: and

(c) what would be the role of NCAOR when study regarding exploration part of gas hydrates in the country is over?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) NCAOR, in association with National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) has been mandated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences to implement science component of the programme on gas hydrates. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) is responsible for implementation of the technology development component. The role of NGHP is more exploratory in nature and site-specific, aimed at estimating the potential reserves of gas hydrates, whereas gas hydrate programme of Ministry of Earth Sciences is focused on scientific research and development of technology.

(c) NCAOR is responsible for assimilation of marine geo-scientific data collected under the programme, development of database management system and data archival.