

Coal and lignite blocks were earlier allocated in pursuance of Section 3 of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 wherein the prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease of the allocated coal/lignite blocks are given under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Allocation of a lignite block under Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 is a prerequisite before the prior approval of the Central Government is accorded for grant of mining lease under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The above mentioned blocks have not been allocated by the Ministry of Coal to the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (GMDCL). Hence prior approval of mining lease for these areas does not arise.

Under the amended provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules made thereunder, the Central Government on 29.07.2013 has invited applications for allocation of 5 lignite blocks to the State Government companies/corporations located in the State of Gujarat & Rajasthan.

Habitations with contaminated water

3389. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are still 2,000 arsenic and 12,000 fluoride affected habitations in the country, which have poor water quality;
- (b) if so, how many of those habitations are located in Tamil Nadu; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to address the water quality problem in those districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) State-wise number of rural habitations suffering with excess arsenic and/or fluoride in one or more drinking water sources as reported by the States/ UTs including Tamil Nadu into the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 1.4.2014 is given in the Statement (*See* below). As reported by Government of Tamil Nadu as on 1.4.2014, there is no arsenic and fluoride affected habitations which are yet to be provided with safe drinking water in the rural areas of the State.

(c) Drinking water supply is a State subject. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to the State Departments/ Boards dealing with rural drinking water supply in their efforts of providing

safe drinking water in adequate quantity. Out of funds released to the States under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), 67% funds can be utilized by the States for coverage and tackling water quality problems through provision of safe drinking water in adequate quantity. Also, 75% of 5% of NRDWP funds is also earmarked for providing safe drinking water in chemical contaminated habitations while the remaining 25% of 5% NRDWP funds are earmarked for providing safe drinking water in rural areas in 60 high priority districts affected with Japanese Encephalitis/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome in 5 States. All the State Governments have been advised to accord highest priority under NRDWP to provide safe drinking water in water quality affected habitations. Powers have been delegated to the States to plan, design, approve, implement and maintain water supply schemes including setting up of water purification plants. Such schemes are approved by the respective State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee.

Statement

State-wise list of arsenic and fluoride affected habitations yet to be provided with safe drinking water as reported by States/UTs as on 1.4.2014

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ UT	Number of rural habitations affected	
		Fluoride	Arsenic
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	745	0
2.	Bihar	893	357
3.	Chhattisgarh	132	0
4.	Goa	0	0
5.	Gujarat	63	0
6.	Haryana	15	0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	0
9.	Jharkhand	12	0
10.	Karnataka	1122	12
11.	Kerala	102	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1055	0
13.	Maharashtra	307	0

1	2	3	4
14.	Odisha	279	0
15.	Punjab	1	1
16.	Rajasthan	7670	0
17.	Tamil Nadu	0	0
18.	Telangana	1174	0
19.	Uttar Pradesh	180	73
20.	Uttarakhand	2	0
21.	West Bengal	251	1124
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
23.	Assam	128	424
24.	Manipur	0	0
25.	Meghalaya	0	0
26.	Mizoram	0	0
27.	Nagaland	0	0
28.	Sikkim	0	0
29.	Tripura	0	0
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0
35.	Puducherry	0	0
TOTAL		14133	1991

Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan

†3390. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages where 'Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan' is being implemented by the Ministry in Madhya Pradesh and since when it is being implemented;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.