

for the development of the North-East and how much of that has been utilized. Then it makes better sense. I think that this question has been half answered. So, my submission is to please fill in that gap.

GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH: Hon. Chairman, Sir, the point is well taken. I would like to inform the House, through you, that these figures are available. The question was, the reason why it is delayed. I have given out the reasons in the description of the question as to why the delay is taking place. What is needed is, how do we make this better; how do we ensure that North-East gets the attention that it deserves. And I would like to draw your attention to the fact that our Prime Minister has said that North-East requires to be integrated in a much better manner than what it has been done. Accordingly, we are working at it. If the figures are required, separately I can provide to the hon. Member.

Water pricing system in urban areas

*242. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government contemplates to bring in water pricing system in urban areas;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government took the view of all stakeholders in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):
(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Though water pricing in urban areas is within the mandate of State Governments/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), the Government of India have issued Manuals and Advisories advocating the levying of appropriate user charges and to guide States to improve water supply and sanitation services including recovery of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) charges.

(c) Appropriate water pricing system in urban areas and levying of user charges to recover O&M cost has been the part of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). JNNURM was approved after due stakeholders' consultations. During the implementation period of JNNURM (2005-2014) continuous consultations with the stakeholders was done. Based on the continuous consultation and feedback an advisory was issued by the Ministry of Urban Development on tariff structure for urban water supply and sewerage services in July, 2013.

DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Why is Government not taking any steps to make rainwater harvesting mandatory in all States by enacting a Central legislation the way our hon. Chief Minister, Amma, in the year 2001 itself made rainwater harvesting compulsory in Tamil Nadu?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Hon. Chairman, Sir, drinking water supply is a very important aspect of life of the people and there is scarcity of it at a number of places. That being the case, one of the programmes of the Ministry of Urban Development is to persuade the States and also the Urban Local Bodies and make this as a component of the Planning approval to have rainwater harvesting system in each household. I am happy that certain States including Tamil Nadu have taken steps in this direction and they are getting positive results. In the recent Conference of the Ministers of Urban Development and Housing of different States of the country, we emphasized on this point, and I can assure the House that it will be one of the major reforms that will be pursued in the future also because rainwater harvesting is the need of the hour.

DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Government of India come forward to establish large-scale purified water manufacturing scheme at a minimal cost to the common public?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a suggestion for action. Purification of water is also a need of the hour because at a number of places the complaints are coming about supply of polluted water. Softening of water and purification of water at every level is the need of the hour. The Government of India will be pursuing this also. But we must also understand, Sir, water supply is basically a State subject and also it has to be dealt by urban local bodies and rural local bodies. That being the case, we have only an advisory role and a persuasive role. But we are making it part of our reforms, then trying to give incentives to implement the reforms. This will be one for such action.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : माननीय सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि भूजल स्तर बहुत नीचे गिर रहा है। शहरी इलाकों में भी जल स्तर बहुत तेजी से गिर रहा है और पीने के पानी की कमी पूरे देश में है बहुत से देशों ने वेस्ट वॉटर की रिसाइक्लिंग करके पीने योग्य बनाया है और जो उनके पीने के पानी की कमी है, उसको पूरा कर रहे हैं। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ, चूंकि टैक्स लगाने का विषय तो राज्य सरकारों का है, नगरपालिकाओं का है, क्या भारत सरकार ऐसी किसी योजना पर विचार कर रही है कि जो वेस्ट वॉटर है उसको फिर से पीने योग्य बनाया जा सके?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a suggestion for action. I shall definitely keep this in mind. In certain places, this process is already on. In certain areas, people are recycling the water and using it for purposes other than drinking. Even in Delhi, we have certain areas where recycling of water is done for gardening purposes and

for other purposes. This is an important aspect. While formulating our future approach, this will be kept in mind.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : हमने पीने के पानी की योजना के बारे में पूछा है।

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : मैंने अदर परपजेज़ कहा है।

डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधू : सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि अभी उन्होंने बताया कि वह राज्य का विषय है। लेकिन प्रश्न 'ग' के उत्तर में आपने बताया कि उपयुक्त जल मूल्य निर्धारण प्रणाली और प्रचालन एवं अनुरक्षण की ये सारी चीजों पर प्रयोक्ता प्रभार लगाना जवाहरलाल नेहरू राष्ट्रीय शहरी नवीकरण मिशन के अन्तर्गत आता है। मैं मानती हूँ कि अगर यह शहरी और उसके निकाय का प्रश्न है तो उनको लगाना चाहिए, लेकिन आपने जो इस योजना के अन्तर्गत पैसा दिया है, तो कहीं-न-कहीं इसमें केन्द्र सरकार का भी हस्तक्षेप होता है या नहीं? नम्बर-2 सर, जो परकोलेशन होता है, बारिश के पानी का, उसके बारे में सरकार की क्या सोच है?

श्री सभापति : बस, एक सवाल।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already assured that the Government of India, through the process of Urban Renewal Mission, will persuade the States to go for rainwater harvesting and make it a part of the urban and country planning so as to preserve whatever water we get through rains — rains also are scarce nowadays — and then utilize it for better purposes. That is the need of the hour. The Government of India is already moving in that direction.

श्री अनिल माधव दवे : माननीय सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि शहरी विकास के संबंध में हम आगे बढ़ते हुए गांव से और जंगलों से पानी लेते हैं और गंदा पानी गांव को वापस दे देते हैं। अरबन डेवलपमेंट, डिस्पिलन इन डेवलमेंट इस विषय में एक आत्मनिर्भर शहरी विकास के संबंध में क्या कोई विचार है कि हम हमेशा ही ऐसा करेंगे कि हम ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों से उनका जो पानी का स्रोत है वह खुद ले लेंगे। पलट करके हम दिल्ली का पानी वापस कहाँ देते हैं? तो देखने में आता है कि हम पूरा का पूरा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में दे देते हैं। तो इस संबंध में क्या विकास की दिशा में किसी फिलॉस्फी पर हम विचार कर रहे हैं?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are two ways of getting water — one, through rain god and the other is through the flow of the rivers. Water by itself is not available in urban areas. You have to take water from the rivers which are passing through the villages, cities, etc. There is no other way than this, of getting water. Secondly, water that is coming through rain has to be harvested in a better manner. I have already emphasised on that, and we are moving in that direction. Thirdly, with regard to the concern of leaving the polluted water or drainage water and again sending it back to the villages, the effort of the Urban Development Ministry is to see that proper sewage

facilities are created in every urban local body and then sewage treatment plants (STPs) are set up in various municipal bodies so that this problem can be taken care of. As I told you, Sir, again, this has to be done by the urban local bodies. We, the Government of India, are trying to guide the States and also finance the schemes for sewerage treatment plants through our mission.

Scarcity of water in DIZ area

*243. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether drinking water is being supplied through a single pipeline for water tank and quarters in DIZ Area, Sector-4, Gole Market;

(b) if so, whether due to single pipeline, water can either be stored in water tank or water can be used in quarters resulting in hardship and water shortage to residents;

(c) if so, whether there is urgent need for two separate pipelines for water supply to both the water tank and quarters; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the NDMC/CPWD in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Through a single pipeline, water is being stored in individual terrace water tanks of 500 litres capacity for each quarter and is also supplied directly in the quarters. This single pipeline enables storage of water in individual overhead tanks as well as usage inside the quarters.

(c) Technically, there is no requirement for two separate pipelines for supply of water to individual terrace water tanks and for direct supply inside the house. Since the availability of water is limited and therefore this system ensures equitable distribution of water at each quarter.

(d) No action required in view of reply at (c) above.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, I have a request to make. How can Parliament ponder over this issue?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Make the suggestion to the hon. Minister.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: It says how water is being supplied to Sector — 4, Gole Market.