

Fluoride level in drinking water

289. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any action plan to tackle the excess fluoride level in drinking water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which the report, received from the States detailing the steps being taken by them to address this problem, would be utilized; and
- (d) how Government intends to support the State Governments in tackling this pressing challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV) : (a) to (d) As reported by the State Departments dealing with rural drinking water supply into the online Integrated Management Information System of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, as on 22/4/2015, there are still 11,804 fluoride affected habitations in 18 States which are yet to be provided with safe drinking water. By March, 2017, the States have been asked to provide community water purification plants in all remaining fluoride affected habitations as a short term measure.

At the beginning of every year, the Ministry reviews the performance of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) of all States during the previous financial year in the Annual Action Plan meetings which *inter-alia* include monitoring for coverage of fluoride affected habitations. During this meeting, the annual targets for the current financial year are mutually discussed and finalized, including according high priority for coverage of water quality affected habitations with special focus on tackling fluoride and arsenic problems. In general, the States plan and implement piped water supply projects from safe surface water sources for tackling fluoride problems. These projects are approved at the State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committees headed by the Principal Secretary dealing with rural drinking water supply and a representative of the Ministry also attends these meetings as a member. Since these schemes take certain gestation time, the Ministry had suggested to set up community water purification plants in all remaining fluoride, arsenic, heavy metal and pesticide affected habitations to provide 8-10 lpcd of safe drinking water atleast for drinking and cooking purposes as a short term measure.

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India assist all the State Governments technically and financially in providing safe drinking water through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under NRDWP, upto 67% funds released to the States can be utilized for coverage and/or tackling water quality problems with high priority to target fluoride and arsenic affected habitations. Further, 75% of the 5% NRDWP Earmarked Water Quality funds are also provided to only those States which have excess chemical contamination in rural drinking water sources.

Construction of toilets under sanitation project

290. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of toilets made so far in the country since August, 2014 under the sanitation project by the Central Government;
- (b) whether Government provides assistance to State Government for construction of toilets;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the West Bengal, State-wise;
- (d) the quantum of budgetary allocations made for sanitation during 2015-16; and
- (e) the details of assistance given to NGOs working in the sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV) : (a) Number of toilets made so far under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan/Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) from 1 st August, 2014 to 31 st March, 2015 is 54,69,352.

(b) Yes.

(c) Provision of incentives for the construction of Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) is ₹ 12000, including Central share of ₹ 9000.00 (₹ 10800.00 in case of special category States) for all Below poverty Line (BPL) households and to identified Above Poverty Line (APL) households (all SCs/STs, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers with homestead, physically handicapped and women-headed households). The Central Assistance provided to the States/UTs in 2014-15 is given in Statement (*See below*).