

**Increasing financial aid to Panchayats for construction of toilets**

\*148. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sulabh International Social Service Organisation has requested Government to increase the amount given to Panchayats to build toilets from the present ₹ 12,000 to ₹ 15,000 to construct better quality toilets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), the incentive to eligible beneficiaries for construction of toilet has been increased from ₹ 10000 to ₹ 12000 recently with effect from 2nd October, 2014. Moreover, this is only an incentive amount and not a reimbursement of the cost of the toilet, which may be lower or higher than this incentive amount, depending upon several factors. State governments have a flexibility to provide higher incentive, if required from their own sources.

**Steps for energy saving and conservation**

\*149. SHRI V. P. SINGH BADNORE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by the Ministry regarding energy saving and conservation to the last five years; and

(b) the details of new initiatives being taken and how much saving is being planned by the Ministry with such proposals/innovations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Ministry of Power has taken following steps for energy savings and conservation:-

- (i) Energy efficiency labeling for 21 appliances.
- (ii) Fuel efficiency standard prescribed for passenger cars.
- (iii) Energy Conservation Building Codes (ECBC) formulated for energy efficiency improvement in commercial buildings.
- (iv) Specific energy consumption norms prescribed for energy intensive industries.