(v) To promote ease of doing business in the sector, in the Union Budget 2016-2017, Government has issued simplified procedure for tax compliance for the shipyards while procuring duty free goods for shipbuilding and ship repair.

(vi) Government has, on February 13,2015, dispensed with the requirement of registration of Ship Repair Units with the Director General of Shipping, Mumbai.

(vii) To bring down the cost of construction of barges, river sea vessels (RSV Types 1 and 2) and port and harbour crafts and to meet demand for steel by ship and barge builders, the Government has, on February 9, 2015, decided that re-rolled steel obtained from re-cycling yards/ship breaking units would be certified for use in construction of these vessels.

Indigenous systems of pure drinking water

*78. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) what were the indigenous systems of pure drinking water;

(b) whether that system is costly compared to the present system; and

(c) whether Government has made any study and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) to (c) In ancient times the population used to settle adjacent or along the river banks so that water is easily available to them at a short distance. During medieval times the forts and palaces in India were designed to store pure drinking water through proper rain water harvesting. These rain water harvesting structures were known with different names in different parts of the country. People used to build open wells and dugwells for water collection. Sand and charcoal treatments were amongst the oldest methods of water filtration techniques for getting pure drinking water.

The ancient indigenous systems were basically water conservation systems aimed at making availability of pure drinking water while the present system is based on harnessing water either from ground water sources or surface water sources and providing the same to the population through public stand posts and household tap connections. The two systems are not comparable cost-wise as these relate to different time periods and the technology used are also different.

Both the indigenous systems as well as the current systems aimed at providing

drinking water free of chemical as well as bacteriological contaminants, the key difference between the two being the costs involved in purification of water and the level of purification achieved. The Government however has not made any detailed study in this regard.

Achievement of NRDWP

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

(a) whether the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) has been able to reduce the disparity of water availability in urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir.

Through National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and its erstwhile scheme Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Central Government assists State Governments to improve the facility of drinking water, which is a State subject, with technical and financial assistance.

As per the census, availability of drinking water within the premises in rural areas has increased by 6.3% compared to 5.8% increase in the urban areas from 2001 to 2011. Similarly during the same period, availability of drinking water through tap in rural areas has increased by 6.5% compared to 2% increase in the urban areas. This data indicates that the improvement in these parameters is more in rural areas compared to urban areas thus reducing the disparity in this respect.

However, the norm for drinking water in urban areas ranges from 100 litre per capita per day (lpcd) to 150 lpcd. As against this, the norm for water supply in rural areas is 40 lpcd. Once this norm is achieved, the States are advised to go for 55 lpcd by the end of Twelfth Five Year Plan and subsequently to 70 lpcd by the year 2022. Availability of drinking water in rural areas (as per present norm of 40 lpcd) has increased from 70.11% (as on 31.03.2011) to 76.71% (as on 31.03.2016). This shows the increase in the availability of drinking water in rural areas, thus reducing the disparity between rural and urban areas.